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Bill to be rushed through Commons

Police balk at dangerous dog licensing role

By QUENTIN COWDRY AND SHEILA GUNN

THE Home Office yesterday published its emergency bill restricting ownership of fighting dogs and immediately walked into a dispute over who should issue licences to those allowed to keep the animals.

The government also jeopardised the all-party support that the measure has attracted by announcing that discussion of the bill in the Commons would be restricted to nine hours.

Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, said the government feared that Conservative backbenchers would come out in support of a full-scale dog registration scheme.

The bill, which the government intends to have passed through all stages in the Commons by 1am on Tuesday, proposes that ownership of fighting dogs such as American pit bull terriers should be legal after November 30 only if the animals are registered, neutered and insured on third party terms. The dogs would have to be muzzled and

leashed in public and the maximum sentence for breaking the law would be six months in jail or a £5,000 fine.

The government expects many people to have their dogs destroyed, and will pay those who do £50. Owners who decide to keep their animals will have to seek exemption certificates, which may cost up to £150 per animal. Ministers had hoped that the police would run the limited dog register, but the Association of Chief Police Officers said it would be extremely reluctant to accept the job.

David Owen, the association's president, said last night: "We must not take on board tasks that can be carried out more adequately by other people." He refused to comment further, but Alan Eastwood, chairman of the Police Federation, said there had been a "furious row" between the police and the Home Office.

Ministers still hope the police may be persuaded to shoulder the burden, but district councils or the RSPCA may be approached to act as the licensing authority. But Roy Thomson, chairman of the Association of District Councils, voiced serious reservations. "We are not prepared to take on a scheme that is a burden on community charge payers," he said. The Post Office said it might help to issue the licences, but could not play a central role in the proposed scheme.

The Home Office declined to comment on the disagreement, but said details of the licensing system would be announced during the passage of the bill.

The new legislation will restrict ownership only of designated fighting dogs, such as pit bulls or Japanese tosas. Ministers have, however, grasped the opportunity to send out a broader message to owners by proposing a new offence of permitting a dog to behave dangerously in public. Even where no injury was caused to an innocent party, owners could be jailed for six months and fined £5,000. In more serious cases, the maximum sanction would be two years' imprisonment and an

unlimited fine. In addition, muzzling and leashing orders could be extended to other breeds if these were considered to present a danger and Parliament approved.

If the measures are passed, pit bulls will eventually become extinct in Britain. Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, declined to predict how many would be put down immediately. He said he thought "quite a lot" would be destroyed over the next few months, but added: "Unfortunately, I expect some will still be kept for fighting, but these dogs will be more and more isolated and more and more identifiable."

Fighting dogs could never be suitable pets and were owned only by criminal psychopaths, social inadequates and the naive. He hoped most owners will be deterred by the cost of exempting pit bulls from the ban. One Home Office official said later: "There won't be anything macho about taking a neutered and muzzled pit bull out for a walk."

The bill was warmly welcomed by vets and animal charities who persuaded Mr Baker to allow a broader exemption scheme than first envisaged. Andrew Chevis, secretary of the joint advisory committee on pets in society, said: "We think this gives the responsible owner of pit bull terriers a chance to show they are capable of looking after their dog and keeping it under control." The RSPCA voiced delight that ministers had heeded its advice on "humane and sensible ways" of tackling the threat posed by fighting dogs.

Mr Hattersley also welcomed most of the provisions of the bill, but criticised the government's failure to concede a full-scale dog registration scheme. He also condemned the decision to gut the debate, saying: "This may be the first time in record that a government has gutted a bill that has the general support of the House of Commons. Their action is indicative of John Major's style of government: the sudden illusion of decisive action followed by muddle and panic."



Derby day delight: an easy win by 9-1 Generous in the Derby yesterday was cheered on from the royal box by the Queen, her mother and Lord Carnarvon, the Queen's racing manager. Alan Munro, the winning jockey, said: "I never had a problem." Analysis and reports, pages 32 and 36

Soviet leader appeals to West

From TONY SAMSTAG IN OSLO AND MARY DEIVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday used his long-delayed Nobel peace prize address to call for a Soviet economic agreement with the West, but added that it would be "futile and dangerous" for the capitalist world to set conditions for Soviet reform.

He said there should be "synchronisation" of Soviet policies with those of the Group of Seven industrialised nations and the European Community. This would also involve making the rouble convertible and the Soviet Union joining the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

"There is a need for discussion in the Group of Seven," Mr Gorbachev continued. "We need a joint programme to be implemented over a number of years. To me it is self-evident that, if Soviet perestroika succeeds, there will be a real chance of building a new world order."

A close adviser to Mr Gorbachev who accompanied him to Norway said that he would be host to President Bush at a Moscow summit in the last week of this month. "It'll be at the end of the month. That's sure," he said.

Mr Gorbachev was unable to attend the prize-giving ceremony last December because of tensions at home. Subsequently, bloody clashes between Soviet troops and independence demonstrators in Lithuania and Latvia cast a shadow over what had been one of the most popular Nobel peace prize decisions.

At a news conference yesterday, Mr Gorbachev clearly lost his temper and denounced Western press reports of Soviet military action in Lithuania and accused Western journalists of double standards and of deliberately misrepresenting the delicate question of inter-ethnic relations in the Soviet Union.

EC studies loan rates as Lamont sees banks

By OUR BUSINESS AND POLITICAL STAFF

SIR Leon Brittan, the EC competition commissioner, is to write to banking associations throughout the European Community, seeking evidence of agreements on interest rate charges. The move came as Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, saw the first bank chairmen as part of the government's investigation into allegations that clearing banks are operating a cartel to the detriment of small businesses.

The timing of Sir Leon's announcement that he is sending letters as a "pre-emptive measure" to prevent banks breaking competition rules is likely to be controversial. The EC commission decided in April to pursue the matter, but waited until yesterday - at the height of the argument in Britain over banks' lending practices - to publicise its decision.

Explaining his action yesterday, Sir Leon said that banks

were needed by every company and were "particularly vital to smaller firms, where the cost of overdraft or credit facilities can be a major element in a business's survival, especially when times are hard". He added: "If we come across any evidence that the customer is not getting a fair deal, we shall pursue it vigorously."

The commission is also to consider a draft directive to stop big companies delaying paying bills from smaller suppliers. Small businesses say that late payment is a worse problem than even high interest rates. The proposed directive would give firms a right to interest on late-paid bills, but is likely to face opposition from the government, which last year blocked a private member's bill from a Conservative MP seeking to establish such a right.

The problem of late payment was highlighted by Lord Alexander of Weedon, the National Westminster Bank chairman, after he saw Mr Lamont at the Treasury yesterday. Lord Alexander said that he would co-operate fully with the government investigation. "We have a good record, we have nothing to hide," he said. "We have put facts before the government, so that they can consider whether these complaints are well-founded. If they decide they are not, I hope they say so loud and clear."

National Westminster is Britain's largest bank for small businesses, lending up to £9 billion. Lord Alexander, who insisted that it would not

change its lending policies, said that "the main problem for small businesses is the general recession with high interest rates, a reduction in sales and large customers who are being slow to pay their small suppliers".

At Westminster, the pressure for action to protect small businesses increased with the Liberal Democrats calling for the powers of the banking ombudsman to be extended to cover small business customers. Alan Beith, the party's Treasury spokesman, also repeated his call for the banks to be referred to the monopolies commission.

Previous government efforts to investigate the banks' relationship with small businesses failed to uncover hard evidence of unfair treatment, it is disclosed today by Eric Forth, a junior employment minister, in a letter to *The Times*.

Labour's PR chief quits over deputy

By PHILIP WEBSTER CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR's director of communications, John Underwood, resigned last night after failing to win Neil Kinnock's backing in a power struggle at the party's Walworth Road headquarters.

Mr Kinnock refused his demand that his deputy in the communications department Colin Byrne should be moved from his job.

Mr Underwood handed a resignation letter to Larry Whitty, Labour's general secretary, in the Commons after national executive and shadow cabinet members had interceded unsuccessfully on his behalf with Mr Kinnock.

The clash of personalities, in a department whose performance had been the envy of Labour's opponents, could damage the party in the run-up to the general election. Mr Underwood, aged 38, said last night that he "did not

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EC acts, page 21

TODAY IN THE TIMES

ACID TEST



England expects too much? Vix Richards and Graham Gooch spent yesterday dampening a lively sales pitch before today's first Test at Headingley Page 36

DIETING

Ann Kent on the personal touch, rather than grand plans, as the most effective way to improve the health of the nation Page 11

FILMS

Ana Gallena snips to conquer in what may be the first film to take a haircut and turn it into an erotic experience Page 13

INSIDE

Crime problem

Police must abandon their obsession with crime figures and support radical reform of the statistics, Albert Paacy, chief constable of Gloucestershire, told the conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers Page 3

Tube plea

London's Underground system needs an investment of up to £750 million a year over the next ten years to provide an acceptable network, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission reported Page 4

Beach accolade

Britain's beaches are getting cleaner but many remain in a disgusting condition, environmentalists said Page 4

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Israel strikes to 'undermine Syria'

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL signalled yesterday that its intense three-day air strike on Palestinian targets in Lebanon, may presage further military action aimed not only at hitting guerrilla positions but undermining Syria's influence over the country.

Speaking after one of the most sustained air attacks in nearly a decade, Moshe Arens, the Israeli defence minister said Israel wanted to see an end to the "Syrian takeover" of Lebanon, and hinted that it would help bring that about.

The Bush administration, searching hard for a Middle East peace settlement, urged Israel to end the bombing. But it refused to criticise the Jewish state or speculate on the motives for the raids.

The State Department yesterday asked all parties to avoid inflammatory actions that hampered Beirut from implementing its plans to disarm Lebanese militias. It did not say whether America had any evidence of recent disruption by Lebanese groups but conceded that it did not help the search for a regional peace settlement.

This week's operations, which coincided with the anniversary of Israel's controversial 1982 invasion of Lebanon, continued on page 20, col 4

Levy raises hopes, page 9

Old certainties, page 8  
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Chadli postpones polls

From PENNY GIBBINS IN ALGERIA

PRESIDENT Chadli Benjedid of Algeria has declared a state of siege and postponed elections after scenes of anarchy throughout the capital.

With tanks and troops on the streets, the Islamic Salvation Front eased its pressure on the government telling its militants to end protests and hinted that it would call off a strike. The president said that

he had moved to prevent further conflict and called for repressive measures. This was a reference to 11 days of fundamentalist agitation organised by the Front, when thousands of demonstrators clashed with riot police during which at least six people died.

State of siege, page 9  
Neighbours relieved, page 9

Ancient city discovered near the Sphinx

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

EGYPTIAN experts yesterday announced the discovery of a previously unknown Pharaonic city hidden beneath the teeming streets of a modern-day tourist village at the foot of the Sphinx on the outskirts of Cairo.

"This discovery is much more important to Egyptology than all the gold in Tutankhamun's tomb," Zahi Hawass, antiquities director for the Giza pyramids area claimed at the village of Nazlet el-Samman.

"The objects from Tut's tomb are lovely to look at, but they do not tell us anything about real life, about what was going on at the time Tut was Pharaoh. These ruins will reveal a lot about the pharaohs, the nobility and the common man," Dr Dorothe Arnold, an Egyptologist at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, said yesterday that if the team had indeed found a settlement near the great pyramids then it would be "very important".

The discovery would "be a great step forward in understanding the everyday life of Egypt" at the time the pyramids were built. But she said that it would be wrong to compare such a find with the treasures of Tutankhamun's tomb, which were unique.

Local experts claimed that the discovery would prove one of the most important for at least a decade because of the size of the buried city and the archaeological riches it was thought to contain. But the situation below an already inhabited village will make it more than usually difficult to excavate. Mr Hawass said that the buried city stretched for two miles and

was the largest discovered from the Old Kingdom, an era of iron-fisted Pharaonic rule which lasted almost 450 years until ending in 2134 BC.

It was followed by a chaotic 74 years known as the Intermediate period, and ruins from that time found under Nazlet have verified legends that the ancient city on the site was destroyed when its people revolted against the Pharaohs.

Excavators have found extensive areas of charred remains in the debris, a sign that houses and other buildings were burned. Mr Hawass said he had no doubts that the relics matched legendary accounts on papyrus of the unrest not unlike that so common in the Middle East today. Among the questions experts are hoping the discovery will answer are the kind of houses ancient Egyptians lived in, the

kind of food they ate and the co-existence between the various levels of society. Until now, there have been few answers because ancient cities and villages disappeared beneath changing civilisations.

Mr Hawass predicted that the new-found ruins would unravel not only mysteries about the pyramid builders but also those of the civilisations that followed them at Giza.

Excavations at the buried city are expected to prove very sensitive because Nazlet is now a village housing 70,000 people who mostly thrive on the tacky tourist business conducted around the pyramids and are reluctant to move. Archaeologists will begin work excavating the buried city in the autumn.

Prophecy fulfilled, page 16

He's back.

Jeffrey Archer

AS THE CROW FLIES

The first Archer novel for five years.

Out now in hardback.

Hodder & Stoughton Publishers



# Strategies that show small businesses are customers of account

By RAY CLANCY

SMALL businesses have been identified by all the main banks as customers needing specialist advice to help them in setting up and functioning in an increasingly complex financial world. Each of the banks has, however, chosen different ways of offering services.

Staff and managers who give advice are usually of senior grade with several years' banking experience. Specialist training courses, either internal or external, vary in length from two days to a week and concentrate on business lending, enterprise and cash flow. In one bank, training lasts at least six months. In others, initial courses of two to five days are followed by updating sessions several times a year.

The National Westminster Bank, which has brought small businesses to the forefront with a television advertisement featuring a grocer's son who is now a business adviser

determined to ensure that clients do not "make the mistakes" his father made, sees itself as leader in the market. Its small business adviser scheme was started in 1988 and there are now 4,000 advisers, with one in every high street branch, lending £9.9 billion to over a million small business customers.

The typical National Westminster small business adviser has at least ten years' banking experience and is chosen for skill in dealing with small business criteria. As well as having internal courses, advisers receive extra training for their job and may go on external courses. Subjects covered include analysis of business plans. A spokesman said: "We launched the initiative following extensive market research which showed that small business people making an initial enquiry with their local branch frequently wished to discuss their plans informally with someone other than the manager. There was

recognition of customers' needs for basic guidance in a number of key areas relating to start-up finance."

Barclays, which lends £12 billion to small businesses, has teams headed by a manager aimed at offering advice to one- or two-person businesses with turnover of up to £100,000. Under the manager are business bankers who are of senior clerical grade with a good knowledge of the branch system. Richard Cracknell, senior business development manager at Barclays, said: "We did not want people pushed from pillar to pillar, seeing one member of staff about depositing cash, another about loans and another about stopping a cheque. The aim of the system is to allow the small business man or woman to establish a good working relationship with one person, their business banker."

The 1,500 main Barclays branches have 2,200 business bankers, trained to deal with basic

questions that a new businessman might ask and to send customers to the correct source for more complex advice. They attend internal and external courses, which last from two to five days, with updated training two or three times a year.

A series of courses run in conjunction with the Manchester Business School have been set up for enterprise advisers and business managers with the Midland. The bank, which lends £2 billion to 500,000 small businesses, has 350 centres in England and Wales aimed specifically at those with turnover of up to £250,000. There are 550 managers supported by 3,000 enterprise counsellors. A typical week's training course at the business school is likely to include lectures by businessmen and speakers on enterprise, equal opportunities and ethnic minorities.

"It is a very specialist market and one where a need has been identified," a Midland spokesman said.

"The aim is to help small businesses to succeed, so our training programme has a wide base to enable our counsellors to deal with the sort of queries that small businesses have, especially the cashflow problems which everyone is experiencing at the moment."

Lloyds, which lends £4.2 billion to 400,000 small businesses with turnover of less than £1 million, has a network of 350 business centres with 2,000 staff. Each centre has a manager with five or six specialists.

The Royal Bank of Scotland, which refuses to disclose figures on lending to small businesses, does not split private and business customers in the way that other major banks do, and says that experience in the branch system is considered the best training for staff. "In some branches, there are several people who can give advice," a spokesman said. "After all, the criteria of lending, security and enterprise are the same for all customers."



Commercial advice: the National Westminster bank offering small businesses help on television

## How you can get interest charges reduced

By LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

BANK customers who feel they are being overcharged should talk to their local branch manager, the British Bankers Association said yesterday. Branches may in some circumstances scrap charges or reduce interest rates.

Pauline Hedges, the association's press and information manager, said: "Both business and personal customers should make an appointment to see their branch manager to talk about the charges. They should not just charge into the branch and demand to see the manager."

Individual branches do not have so much discretion nowadays because the big four banks have published tariffs. However, if a good customer is briefly in the red, the usual charging structure may be overridden to stop the customer moving elsewhere.

If the local branch will not budge, customers should refer their dispute to the customer services department of the bank, which will set in motion an investigation on their behalf, Mrs Hedges said. Only when the bank has looked into the case thoroughly can the customer ask the banking ombudsman, Laurence Shurman, to evaluate whether they are fair.

Mrs Hedges said: "If a branch manager feels the customer has a valid case they will plead with regional or head office on their behalf. Branch managers do actually care. It is not in their interests to raise margins so high that it forces customers out of business."

At Barclays a spokesman said: "Interest rates are set by the local manager who eval-



Shurman can be called in to adjudicate disputes

uates the risk involved. They are firmly linked to bank base rates. Customers can negotiate the rates down. The customers need to show the branch that their cashflow is good, their order books are healthy and to convince the manager that the interest rate is an unduly harsh assessment of the risks."

The best way to avoid increased interest rates was to avoid going over any overdraft limit. This was a warning sign to the bank that a borrower is in trouble. Where personal customers are concerned the interest rates for unauthorised overdrafts are generally 10 per cent higher than for authorised ones. At Barclays, for example, an authorised overdraft costs 24.1 per cent a year, against 35.4 per cent for an unauthorised one.

The National Westminster Bank, which has brought small businesses to the forefront with a television advertisement featuring a grocer's son who is now a business adviser

Lloyds Bank yesterday announced it will reduce the interest rate on its personal loans from Monday from 25.3 per cent to 24.6 per cent.

## Bank rates not our biggest problem, say small firms

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MUCH bigger problems face Britain's small businesses than bank interest rates and charges, the issue over which Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, has summoned top bankers for discussions, according to the small firms lobby.

Both the Confederation of British Industry's Smaller Firms Council and the Forum of Private Business (FPB), a leading small business lobby group, want interest rates lowered urgently to restart the economy and ease the pain.

But they say high bank charges and interest rates are "only a small part of the overall picture" and fear that the issue is being hyped into a political football.

Stuart Mendham, the FPB chief executive, who has called for a three-point base rate cut,

said the main problems he wanted addressed urgently by the government, banks and small firms at round table talks were: the impact of government policy, primarily the effect of credit deregulation and tax cuts favouring big business; government inaction on the late payment of debts; concern about loan risk; details of interest rates and charges; and excessive levels of security.

Tom O'Connor, chairman of the CBI Smaller Firms Council, said late payment of debt was a "very much more serious matter" than interest rates. His council's latest survey says one firm in five see it as endangering their viability.

He is trying to persuade big business that slow payment imposes a "double penalty" on small firms by braking

their cash flow and forcing them into more costly, short-term borrowing.

Less than 20 per cent of CBI members favour legislation to speed up payments. Four years ago, rejection of legal steps was almost total.

The government last year talked out a private member's bill by Michael Mates, Conservative MP for Hampshire East, which called for statutory interest to be charged on overdue debt. Mr Mendham's organisation, which backed the Mates bill, is currently drafting a new version.

But Mr O'Connor believes legislation would not be beneficial for smaller firms, as the problem was to find legal tools that actually worked. Penalty clauses against slow payers could lead to big companies seeking different contractual arrangements. He wants a code of practice for big companies.

Mr Mendham, whose organisation represents nearly 19,000 businesses with workforces of 200 or less, said he was angry at the way the interest rate row had masked the other problems.

FPB research shows that 33 per cent of Britain's 2.8 million small firms are growing, despite the recession. The organisation estimates that if 40 per cent of small firms grew by a quarter, the sector could turn the economy round.

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## Safe bet all round in money market

THE streets of Luton are not paved with gold but, as David Young reports, they seem to be lined with banks and building societies willing to advise on how best to invest it

THE main shopping street of Luton, Bedfordshire, has a branch of every clearing bank and, in a 300-yard stretch, no fewer than a dozen building society offices.

In anticipation of picking up between £10,000 and £20,000 from the bookmakers after yesterday's Derby, I went in search of a secure and fruitful home for my winnings.

Would the much-maligned high street banks be the most helpful, or would the friendly, smiling building societies offer the best and easiest form of investment? The result was that the banks won by the shortest of heads, although the building societies gave them a run for my money and, for many, their longer opening hours could be the deciding factor when making a choice.

Lloyds Bank, in George Street, was first to be put to the test. I was ushered into a private office on the first floor by an investment adviser. He explained the bank's duties under the Financial Services Act and outlined the options, from a simple deposit account to various equity-linked savings plans. Up-to-date literature on all the schemes was supplied. High marks for speed and efficiency. Low marks for decor, which some may find old fashioned.

No such criticism of the Midland Bank, across the road, which is more Next than banking hall. The Midland's financial investment consultant was tied up, but an appointment made for 40 minutes later, and the full range of options available was explained by the receptionist.

The Royal Bank of Scotland, Barclays and the National Westminster all had financial consultants who could arrange informal consultations, although, in each case, cashiers at the front desk were able to offer initial advice and brochures.

No mention of the fact that investment can go down as well as up was given by the young lady at the Woolwich. She abandoned a pile of forms she was working on to talk me through the savings plans that the building society could offer. Indeed, she was the only consultant who took trouble to explain how my windfall could be packaged into various different savings schemes

to maximise the interest and tax advantages available and still allow instant access to some of the cash. She also was the only one to offer to take my name and address.

The Nationwide Anglia was no less helpful, but the advice of the young lady there was limited to two types of savings account that were on offer.

My conclusion was that any of the banks could have my custom because each was willing to detail clearly their services. The attractions of the societies, particularly the approach by the Woolwich are also hard to resist, and, for many, their informality and longer opening hours would be the key factor.



Lord Alexander of Weeden National Westminster

ONCE described as the best advocate of his generation, Lord Alexander should have little difficulty arguing National Westminster's case on small companies loans. This is one of the few times that the former barrister has opposed the government on anything. In the 1980s he came to prominence when he represented the government against the unions at GCHQ, and in the *Spycatcher* affair.

Lord Alexander is a relative newcomer to banking. He joined Natwest in October 1989, but he has shown he can grasp the most complex banking issues and has shored up the bank's image through ceaseless diplomacy. Born Robert Alexander, the Natwest chairman started his career at the bar by sub-editing legal reports for *The Times*. He also has a particular interest in small businesses since the time his parents ran a filling station.



Sir Nicholas Goodison Trustee Savings Bank

SIR Nicholas is no newcomer to government disputes. As chairman of the Stock Exchange between 1976 and 1988 he fought a drawn-out legal battle with the department of trade, which had referred the exchange to the restrictive practices court. The dispute ended in a compromise between Sir Nicholas and Cecil Parkinson, then the trade secretary, which led to Big Bang, when share trading left the Stock Exchange floor and moved onto computer screens. During the upheaval, Quiller Goodison, Sir Nicholas' own stockbroker firm, was sold to Banque Paribas.

Sir Nicholas joined the TSB as chairman in 1989. In the past two years he has replaced most of the bank's senior directors and cut 5,000 jobs throughout the organisation. He is a favourite to succeed Robin Leigh-Pemberton as governor of the Bank of England.



Sir Kit McMahon Midland Bank

SIR Kit's meeting with Norman Lamont may be his last official duty as chairman of Midland Bank since he hands the job over to Sir Peter Walters, the former chairman of BP, later this month. Sir Kit's departure after four years at the bank comes after Midland's failure to merge with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation last year, and a string of disappointing results.

Born in Melbourne, Australia, Sir Kit is perhaps the least conventional of the senior banking chiefs. By training and instinct he is a central banker. He left Australia after university, and joined the Bank of England after a short spell at the Treasury. Sir Kit spent 23 years rising through the ranks of the Bank of England, and ended as deputy governor. Many believe he was denied the top role as governor in 1983, because he was seen to be too liberal.



Sir Jeremy Morse Lloyds Bank

SIR Jeremy should feel a particular affinity for small businesses, since he almost ran one. When he was young, it was assumed he would join Steward & Patten, the family's brewing firm in Norfolk. But it was sold to Watney's in the 1960s, leaving Sir Jeremy to pursue a banking career.

Sir Jeremy learnt his trade at the Bank of England, where he was appointed a director at the age of 36. He is the longest-standing of the bank chairmen and took up the post in 1977, when the bank's future was threatened by crippling Third World loans. Since then, the bank's reputation has risen steadily, and it is now one of the most highly rated banks on the stock market. Sir Jeremy is an academic, and a brilliant classicist. Last year, in response to the poor results at the bank, Sir Jeremy waived £39,000 of his salary under a profit-sharing agreement and drew only £213,000.



Sir John Quilton Barclays Bank

WHEN Sir John Quilton meets the Chancellor of the Exchequer next week, he will be able to draw on 38 years of experience working at all levels in Barclays. Sir John joined the bank shortly after university and has remained there apart from two secondments — one to Société Générale in Paris and the other to the health ministry. Sir John gained first-hand experience of lending policy as a regional director in Nottinghamshire, before he was appointed to the main board. He was elected deputy chairman in 1985 and became chairman in 1987.

Sir John has made a strong recovery after he underwent heart bypass surgery last year. One of the messages he is likely to carry to Mr Lamont is that the recession is the worst period for banking in living memory. Barclays, Britain's largest bank, had to write off a record £1.2 billion of bad debts last year.

## Attempt to stop IRA retrial is rejected

A DUTCH appeal court yesterday rejected a defence attempt to bar the retrial of three suspected IRA members who were acquitted of murdering two Australian tourists last year.

The court action cleared the way for the court to proceed with the state's appeal against the acquittal of three defendants over the shooting of Stephen Melrose, aged 24, and Nick Spanos, 28, in Roermond, Sean Hick, aged 30, of Dublin, Paul Hughes, 27, of Newry, and Donna Maguire, 24, also of Newry, were acquitted of murder and conspiracy in April. Under Dutch law, the state can appeal against innocent verdicts.

A fourth defendant, Gerard Harne, aged 27, of Newry, was found guilty and sentenced to 18 years in prison. All four have denied membership in the IRA.

All four are sought by Germany in connection with offences against British military personnel. Miss Maguire is fighting her extradition at the Dutch Supreme Court.

## Pickles' view

Judge Pickles said on BBC Television's *Woman* last night that cannabis and other soft drugs should be legalised. The controversial judge, who takes his last case at Bradford county court in three weeks, said the current fight against drugs was hopeless. He is to appear in *Byline* on BBC1 next Tuesday, when he will advocate sweeping changes in the drug laws.

Interview, page 14

## Unfair sacking

Peter Miller, a former assistant editor of the *Sunday Mirror*, was unfairly dismissed from his £45,500-a-year post last November and can apply for compensation, an industrial tribunal ruled yesterday. It said Eve Pollard, the paper's then editor, failed to hold a proper inquiry into charges of neglect made against Mr Miller, aged 50, of Wimbledon, southwest London.

## Homeless plea

The Church Housing Association, which manages more than 4,500 homes for low-income families and runs hostels for the homeless, yesterday launched an appeal for £300,000 to set up a team to settle hostel residents into permanent homes and to give extra care. Caroline White, the chief executive, said that many residents were recovering from mental illness or from drug and alcohol abuse.

## Beadle award

Jeremy Beadle, star of the TV programme *Game for a Laugh*, yesterday accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages in the High Court over an article in *The Independent* which said he liked to offer his deformed right hand for the public to shake as a joke. Mr Beadle, of Highgate, north London, suffered from Poland's Syndrome and did charity work for fellow victims, his solicitor said.

## Diary decision

Seventy diaries written by the composer Sir Edward Elgar and his wife, Alice, are to be retained in the Hereford and Worcester county record office until their ownership has been established, the council decided yesterday. Mr Raymond Monk, an Elgar scholar who lives in Leicester, said he was bequeathed the diaries

Byring The Times overseas: Australia £22.50; Canada \$22.50; Denmark 16.00; France 16.00; Germany 16.00; Greece 16.00; Hong Kong 16.00; India 16.00; Italy 16.00; Japan 16.00; Korea 16.00; Malaysia 16.00; Mexico 16.00; New Zealand 16.00; Norway 16.00; Philippines 16.00; Singapore 16.00; South Africa 16.00; Spain 16.00; Sweden 16.00; Switzerland 16.00; Taiwan 16.00; Thailand 16.00; USA \$22.50.

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## Police chief urges end to crime figure obsession

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE must abandon their obsession with crime figures and support radical reform of the statistics to create less public anxiety and greater accuracy, a senior police officer said yesterday.

Albert Pacey, chief constable of Gloucestershire, told the summer conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Chester that he would like to end the publication of figures for trivial crime, concentrate statistics on crimes the public were concerned about, halt the publication of global figures totalling all recorded crime and reduce the frequency of published statistics. He told other chief constables and authority leaders that the police had to purge themselves of their desire for the figures.

Mr Pacey, who is also secretary of the association's crime committee, said that he agreed with a leading article in *The Times* last year that said that the police were free to keep figures to themselves but that the Home Office should end the "quarterly fiasco that is a public menace".

Mr Pacey's comments came at a time when overall crime

figures for the first quarter of this year are expected to show a national increase of more than 20 per cent. Chief officers argue that such figures do not reflect police efficiency and are the result of social trends or penal policies for which the police have no responsibility.

Mr Pacey told the conference that the way crime figures were portrayed by the media was frequently misleading, fear-provoking, and on some occasions mischievous. Yet the figures were neither an indicator of the incidence of crime or police performance.

Two years ago, a Home Office working party chaired by Michael Grade urged greater restraint by the media. Mr Pacey said that nothing had changed. Everyone knew that crime had increased over the past decade but he asked if there really was a crime wave.

He said that the figures for recorded crime included rises in such offences as bicycle theft and minor criminal damage. The theft of a bottle of milk carried the same statistical weight as robbery, serious assault, rape or murder. The public should be given information on crimes that most concerned them.

Mr Pacey said sex offences as a classification covered a wide range of crimes. Because the numbers involved were relatively small, any police activity soon led to a large percentage increase. That did not mean, however, that there had been an increase over the decade.

Bill Guy, a senior member of the Audit Commission, told the conference that the real message of police performance was not getting across. Last year the police achieved a 5 per cent increase in productivity based on crimes cleared up by detection. Nobody pointed that out to the public, he said. Instead, their perception of the police was based on rising crime figures, an overall drop in cleared up crime and mounting costs.

Mr Pacey said that the police were based on rising crime figures, an overall drop in cleared up crime and mounting costs. Mr Pacey said that the police were based on rising crime figures, an overall drop in cleared up crime and mounting costs. Mr Pacey said that the police were based on rising crime figures, an overall drop in cleared up crime and mounting costs.



Pacey: less anxiety and more accuracy needed

## Intelligence service to fight drugs

By STEWART TENDLER

BRITAIN'S new national criminal intelligence service will be staffed by 450 police officers and civilians whose main task will be to tackle drug trafficking, Tony Mullen, director of the service, said yesterday.

Speaking a few days after his appointment, Mr Mullen, currently chief constable of West Mercia, said: "The animal which gives me the most concern is the drug dealer. It's an area where, unless we get to grips, it could lead to untold problems in the future."

Mr Mullen, part of a police team that investigated the cocaine and crack phenomenon in the United States more than two years ago, said that education programmes in Britain had originally managed to stem the rate of increase in the use of crack, a powerful cocaine derivative, but that its use was now growing.

Mr Mullen, aged 58, said that his service would include customs officials as well as police, and would use files in regional crime squads' intelligence offices. The service will begin next April and a supporting national computer network should start in the autumn of next year.

The computer will hold material from up to ten national intelligence collections kept by police on specialist crimes.

Mr Mullen said that the service would end years of frustration within police forces about the lack of co-ordination of intelligence, which had hampered investigations. The service would gather and analyse material. It would not have an operational role and would not be like the American FBI.

## Lasting pain for boy who crowned William

By DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

PRINCE William was discharged from hospital yesterday leaving the Royal Headache behind.

He waved goodbye to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and 48 hours of excitement, both for himself and the world's media. As the pain dulls the memory of the incident, it will become an episode to remember for the eight-year-old boy.

Not so for the golf-club swinging schoolmate, who has not been named but will grow up known to his friends as the man who crowned the second-in-line to the throne.

Dr Sebastian Kramer, a consultant child psychiatrist at the Tavistock Clinic, Hampstead, said that guilt is at its most pronounced at preparatory school age between five and 12. "This couldn't have happened at a worse time. Children of this age are run by a motor of guilt."

They are, if normal, in their pre-delinquent, pre-adolescent age; they have good behaviour, they want to be held in high esteem by their peers and don't want to do anything to offend the group."

Dr Kramer, however, is optimistic. "Although I have never had to deal with a case of incipient regicide, I would have thought it likely that the boy would suffer more from anxiety than guilt, for if he was reasonably intelligent he would be worried about the



Mother's touch: the Princess of Wales holds her son's hand yesterday afternoon as they left for home after their two-day stay in hospital

prince suffering lasting damage." He added: "I would think that he would play golf again. Even if an adult refused to play golf we would suspect that he was suffering from a traumatic neurosis and I doubt if this is a likely sequel in the hurry-burry of prep school life."

Another London child psychiatrist speaks from personal experience. When at his prep school he split open a fellow scout's forehead with an axe.

It was only a flesh wound but the memory of the horror of the incident has persisted all his life; but he, like Dr Kramer, does not feel that lasting guilt will be a trouble unless the boy was already disturbed and had been predisposed to a neurotic personality by birth or early upbringing.

In an ordinary child, he says, it has a very upsetting effect, but not a disabling one. He himself continues to chop wood and feels the prince's

fellow pupil will continue to play golf.

Dr Kramer's advice is that since the boy could never suppress the memory of the incident he should talk about it with his parents, with his staff and with Prince William. Great Ormond Street is equally optimistic. Dr Arvon Bentovim, a consultant psychiatrist, said: "I suspect all will be well once the boy has been reassured by the sight of Prince William bouncing in

looking as fit as ever. Perhaps in time he will learn to see that it was something that has helped him to develop an understanding of relationships with other people."

Buckingham Palace said that the prince would convalesce at home in Kensington Palace before returning to school at a later date. He sat in the back seat of a chauffeur-driven Daimler next to his mother looking quiet but without any bandages round

his head. The princess had spent two nights at her son's bedside after the accident at Ludgrove school, Berkshire. Although some of her engagements were cancelled so she could spend time with her eldest son, she yesterday visited a new department for the deaf at Springfield hospital, Tooting, southwest London, before returning to escort Prince William home.

Health, page 11

## Controls on police data urged

CALLS for stiffer controls of personal data held on police computers and for cuts in the "massive quantity" of intelligence information stored on them are made today by Liberty, the civil liberties pressure group (Quentin Cowdry writes).

A report by the organisation says rapid growth in the use of police "computers" and the weakness of the rules which govern the gathering and accessing of the information poses a threat to civil liberties. Liberty is especially fearful of the expansion in intelligence data, much of which, it maintains, is non-factual.

## Souvenir hunters plunder crash sites

By KERRY GILL

UNLICENSED souvenir hunters from all over Britain are desecrating the sites of second world war aircraft accidents on the Scottish island of Arran.

On one site on an exposed mountainside they have carved a trench 10 ft deep, 60 ft long and 8 ft wide, which can be seen from three miles away. Parts removed have included propellers, a heavy machinegun and ammunition.

The souvenir hunters' determination to remove anything from five ammunition to aircraft instruments, could lead to prosecutions for theft or vandalism.

Today a naval air squadron from HMS Gannet at Prestwick will begin removing the remains of a Flying Fortress bomber that crashed into the side of 2,597 ft Ben Nevis shortly before Christmas 1944, with the loss of its five crew and four passengers. The plane, known to its flyers as "Skipper and the Kids", has recently been the target of the hunters after years of weather erosion exposed its buried wreckage.

The National Trust for Scotland is worried by the

extensive environmental damage done by souvenir hunters. The trust, which owns about 7,000 acres on the island, has enlisted the aid of the air squadron, which will use a helicopter to lift what is left of the plane.

Many of the crashes occurred during the war when aircraft used a flight path over Arran. At least ten planes, most flown by transatlantic ferry pilots, are thought to have crashed into the mountainous terrain between 1941 and 1945; 22 people died in the worst accident.

Derrick Warner, a trust ranger who will supervise the removal of the Flying Fortress with Sergeant Peter Stanley, an RAF recovery expert, said the souvenir hunters' action was technically theft as the remains were the property of the defence ministry. He said the trust was considering prosecuting people who persisted in stealing souvenirs, and some had already been reported to the police. "I also feel that many relatives must be concerned at the desecration caused at these sites of wartime tragedy for what seems to be a personal hobby or even commercial gain."

## Saatchi Rolls into court

By ALAN HAMILTON

MOST disputes between neighbours are about fences or overhanging trees. In St Leonard's Terrace, Chelsea, where the houses have not lately been known to go for less than a million, it is rather more serious than that.

Charles Saatchi, the advertising tycoon who moved into number 26 last year, is seeking an injunction against his neighbour at number 25, the Hon James Tennant, to stop what he claims to be a long history of abuse and vandalism over the garden wall. Mr Tennant has been in litigation with Mr

Saatchi since last October, claiming to have been disturbed and had his house damaged by Mr Saatchi's internal building works. Writs have flown in both directions, and Mr Saatchi's quest for an injunction will be heard in chambers today.

Mr Tennant, whose brother, Lord Glenconner, made a present of a patch of land on his island of Mustique to Princess Margaret, has told the press that he has received a claim for £12,000 damages to the Saatchi Rolls, which was damaged in a fire over the bank holiday weekend. Mr

Tennant, who denies any knowledge of the fire, is claiming £95,600 in damages from Mr Saatchi for the pollution and damage to his property allegedly caused by works inside the six-storey Saatchi home.

Mr Saatchi's solicitor said yesterday that the Tennants' proceedings against Charles Saatchi would be resisted. "All Mr Saatchi's building was in the hands of reputable contractors and qualified architects." The solicitors claimed a long history of harassment, including the throwing of eggs and racist abuse.

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## Tube 'needs £750m a year to improve'

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S Underground system needs an investment of up to £750 million a year over the remainder of the decade to provide an acceptable modern network, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission said in a report published yesterday.

The investment, which excludes the cost of new and extended lines, will have to be paid for by a combination of real increases in fares, additional government funding and improvements in the efficiency of management and staff, the report said.

In its first report on the Underground, the commission said that the present deficiencies in service were the result of decades of chronic underinvestment in new capacity and existing assets, together with an unforeseen and significant growth in passenger demand, and the disruption caused by the improved safety regime after the King's Cross fire.

The report found that the Underground has been unable to raise fares in real terms as much as it wanted because of

the government's concern over the scale of the increases proposed. "We believe this has damaged London Underground's ability to achieve both the objectives of its fares policy and to plan ahead," it said.

Although managers were given credit for achievements in recent years, particularly on safety, the efficiency with which they use their present resources "leaves much to be desired", the report said. "The public's perception of an erratic, overcrowded and poorly maintained service in many areas is broadly correct, although the picture for the Underground as a whole is more favourable," it added.

The commission made 114 recommendations designed to improve the Underground's service, including better maintenance procedures, the development of a strategic plan, financial incentives for staff and a review of fares policy and levels.

London Underground Limited (Stationery Office, £22)

## Blue flags awarded to 35 seaside resorts

By BILL FROST

BRITAIN'S beaches are getting cleaner, but many remain in a disgusting condition, environmentalists said yesterday after a record 35 seaside resorts were awarded the European Commission's highest accolade for consumer-friendly bathing, the blue flag.

A warning was also issued that beach charges might prove inevitable if water authorities and the government did not launch a major campaign to get rid of sewage pollution.

Professor Graham Ashworth, director general of the Tidy Britain Group, which organises the judging of the contest, said: "Despite the government's allocation of substantial resources for long-term improvement of sewage treatment, many water companies still seem unable to translate this into urgent action on the screening measures that would do much to reduce sewage-derived litter.

If the British public is to have better beaches, much more money will have to be spent on them. If this is not forth-



Blue ribbon: holidaymakers beating the chill wind at Camber Sands, East Sussex, which received a blue flag award for cleanliness yesterday

coming from public sources or the water companies, we may find ourselves being charged to go on the beach."

Elizabeth Doyle, co-ordinator of the blue flag awards, said many local authorities seemed unwilling

to admit that their beaches had been fouled by sewage debris. "Our judges have seen some truly disgusting sights over the last year."

The blue flag, sponsored by the European Commission, is open to popular resorts and

indicates high standards of sea-water quality, beach cleanliness, good facilities, and a strict summer dog ban.

Most of this year's winners were on the south and south-west coasts, from Kent to Cornwall. However, blue flags

were awarded to resorts in Suffolk, Norfolk, Yorkshire and the northeast. The judges' favourite resort at Magilligan in co Londonderry was said to have one of the finest beaches in the world.

1991 blue flag winners are: Cullercoats, Filey, Bridlington north, Bridlington south, Hunstanton, Lowestoft, Southwold, Clacton, Sheerness, Camber, Bexhill, Eastbourne, Christchurch (Friars Cliff), Bournemouth, Poole Sandbanks, Swanage, Weymouth, Seaton, Jacob's Ladder, Sidmouth, Budleigh Salterton, Teignmouth, Oddcombe, Anstey's Cove (Redgate), Meadfoot, Paignton/Paignton Sands, Crinns, Sennen Cove, Porthmeor, Porthminster, Woolacombe, Weston-super-Mare, Caswell, Pembro, Tenby and Magilligan.

Thirteen beaches failed to gain a blue flag this year because of sewage-related debris on the sands, including the previous winners Hillhead, Exmouth, Dawlish Warren, and Corbyn. The other resorts which could not meet the exacting standards required were Balmie, Broadstairs, Broadstairs, Crayke, Dawlish Town,

Fraserborough, Margate, Minnis Bay and St Margaret's Bay. Other reasons for failure included graffiti, litter, and rundown amenities.

Thirteen beaches won Golden Starfish awards, a pilot scheme for resorts too small to qualify for a blue flag. Seven Golden Starfish went to north Cornwall. The stretch of coastline between Harlyn Bay and Constantine Bay was said by one judge to be among the most beautiful in Britain.

David Trippier, the minister for the environment and countryside, said yesterday that £3 billion would be spent over the next decade on improving sea-water quality through measures like phasing out the discharge of untreated sewage. All but a few of Britain's 446 designated beaches would meet EC standards by 1995.

Friends of the Earth said last night that at least six beaches awarded blue flags failed to meet EC virus standards, according to the most recent data available. Eastbourne, Teignmouth, Oddcombe, Anstey's Cove, Paignton/Paignton Sands and Porthmeor should not have received the awards, it said.

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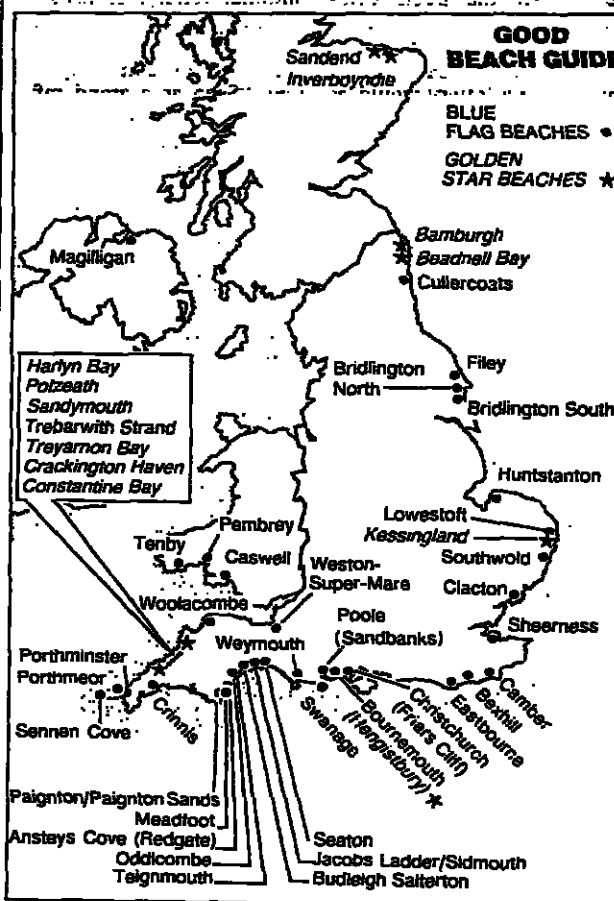
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Postcode

Current Car Make Model

Registration Letter Petrol Diesel

Intended Replacement Date: Month Year



## Wagtails take over a digger

By PAUL WILKINSON

BIRD lovers are paying the owner of a digger £180 a week to keep it off the road while a family of wagtail chicks thrive on its engine. They have hired a replacement vehicle so that the contractor, Marvin Lee, can continue his work on the M3 extension in Hampshire.

The nest was discovered last week after workmen spotted the two parents following the JCB from its depot to the site. "It was like the pied piper," said Cherry Mitchell, of the Wood Green animal shelter, which is footing the bill. "Mr Lee looked inside and saw they had built a nest on the engine. They seemed to like the warmth. We told him to keep on working, but when the eggs hatched at the weekend it was obvious something else should be done."

Since Monday the digger has been parked in a quiet corner of Mr Lee's depot at Netley, near Southampton, while the five fledglings learn to fly. The problem now is that the replacement digger is proving unreliable and Mrs Mitchell says another needs to be found until the young leave the nest. "We can't let the birds come to harm, but we can't threaten someone's livelihood," Mrs Mitchell added.

## Cannabis confession by officer

AN ARMY officer chosen by a college as its most outstanding student for an exchange posting to America was yesterday ordered to be dismissed the service for smoking cannabis.

Lieutenant Brian Cooper, aged 25, had decided after his exchange trip that war should not be used for political ends and sought to leave the army, a court martial heard. He confessed to his commanding officer that he had smoked cannabis frequently.

The hearing, at Bulford army camp, Wiltshire, sentenced him to be dismissed from the army and fined him £1,500.

Cooper, of 47 Field Regiment Royal Artillery based at Thorney Island, West Sussex, originally denied six charges of unlawfully possessing cannabis but changed his plea to guilty.

Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Vowles, for the prosecution, said that after Cooper's exchange trip to America "he had fundamental reservations about the use of war to achieve political ends, and applied, unsuccessfully, to quit the Army."

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# Car makers' block on British buyers 'flouts EC rules'

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CAR MAKERS are refusing to supply British motorists trying to take advantage of cheaper prices on the Continent, according to *Which?*, the consumer magazine.

Manufacturers are bound under European Community legislation to supply dealers with right-hand drive cars for sale to British customers prepared to travel abroad to find prices up to £2,000 or more cheaper. But *Which?* says that car manufacturers may be flouting EC law by illegally blocking the supply of cars to Britain.

The cars have to be supplied at the same price by European dealers as those going to their local customers. Motorists who have tried to make personal imports reported to *Which?* that continental dealers claimed they could not supply a right-hand drive or quoted long delivery periods, often more than six months. Others quoted prices higher than British ones.

*Which?* says that the motor industry has been unwilling to co-operate to the extent that the magazine has been forced to suspend publication of its own advice leaflet. Sue Leggate, the magazine's editor, said: "Manufacturers appear to be using their muscle to deny cheaper cars to British motorists. In practice, it seems that a number of

manufacturers continue to flout European law. If they are adopting these policies, they are breaking EC law."

Sir Leon Brittan, European Commissioner responsible for competition, has asked car makers for written explanations as to why prices vary so widely across Europe. He is, however, certain to await the outcome of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission enquiry in Britain which should be completed by August. Although the EC allows a 12 per cent variation, a provisional report from the MMC found that pre-tax prices could be 50 per cent cheaper in Europe.

Car firms have rejected the findings and briefed lawyers to outline their pricing policies to the MMC. They will emphasise that dealer discounts in Britain make prices lower than the showroom sticker suggests while specification levels are higher. The latest *Which?* report, however, says that a Rover Montego, made in Birmingham, would be about £2,257 cheaper pre-tax from a showroom in The Netherlands. A Ford Fiesta, built at Dagenham, Essex, cost 32 per cent less in Belgium.

The magazine's researchers say the differences cannot be "easily explained away" and reports that pre-tax prices in the United States are even cheaper than in Europe. *Which?* claims that a Honda Civic 1.6i was 44 per cent cheaper in the US than Britain, representing a saving of £4,655.

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Bags of oomph: a furry line of bearskins from bandmen of the Household Division during beating retreat on Horse Guards Parade yesterday

## Where there's a will there may be problems

By PAUL WILKINSON

SEVEN out of ten people die without making a will, leaving problems instead of property to their families, says the Consumers Association magazine *Which?* Even when wills are drawn up there can still be difficulties with badly prepared paperwork.

Six *Which?* readers had wills drawn up by a number of different services: 18 solicitors, six independent will-writing companies and two banks. The results were shown to a panel of experts, who declared them "far from perfect".

Of the 26 final documents, seven were "good", 17 all right, but "a bit rough and ready" and two "incompetent". One solicitor's firm produced a will which did not

provide what the client wanted, and a will-writing company offered documents of which the experts said: "It is difficult to imagine these wills could have been drawn up by anyone offering services as a will-maker."

An Ulster lawyer refused to draw up a will unless he was named as executor, an attitude considered by the Northern

Ireland Law Society as "inappropriate conduct".

The experts said the most common criticisms were that the wills did not cover all possibilities, did not give powers to trustees, failed to deal with divorce and did not provide a survivorship clause to avoid inheritance tax.

*Which?* is concerned by the lack of regulation for the

growing number of will-writing firms. Most staff were given training, but professional qualifications were not required and there were "no proper channels for complaints".

Prices varied from no charge by the Northern Bank, provided they were named executors, to £50 for other banks and solicitors.

## Fog of words masks forecasts' accuracy

TELEVISION weather forecasts are usually accurate, no matter what most people may think, the Consumers' Association magazine, *Which?*, says. The trouble is that we remember only about a third of the information that we are given (Paul Wilkinson writes).

Setting aside Michael Fish's faux pas over the October 1987 hurricane that devastated much of southern England, the BBC's 5.55pm forecast has been correct 84 times out of 100, the magazine says.

*Which?* blames public scepticism about forecasts' accuracy on the giving of too much information in too little time, and confusion over terms used. The magazine says that people have difficulty extracting information they need because details are given for different parts of the country and different times of day.

Forecasters should speak more slowly, repeat key information and pause more often, *Which?* suggests. The Meteorological Office should

adopt the American method of emphasising a situation's uncertainty by referring to the percentage chance of an event, it says, and there should be more competition from independent weather companies.

*Which?* tries to explain forecaster's jargon. High pressure or anticyclones bring settled weather with clear skies. In summer, that should mean warm sunshine, but in winter it indicates frost and possibly fog. Low pressure or a depression brings disturbed weather, often windy with rain or snow in winter. A ridge is high pressure away from the centre of an anticyclone, and a trough is its low pressure equivalent.

Fronts mark the meeting of air masses of different temperatures. A cold front is preceded by a narrow rain belt and followed by brighter weather. A warm front usually has ahead a rain belt up to 200 miles wide. After it, comes cloud and possibly more rain.

Leading article, page 15

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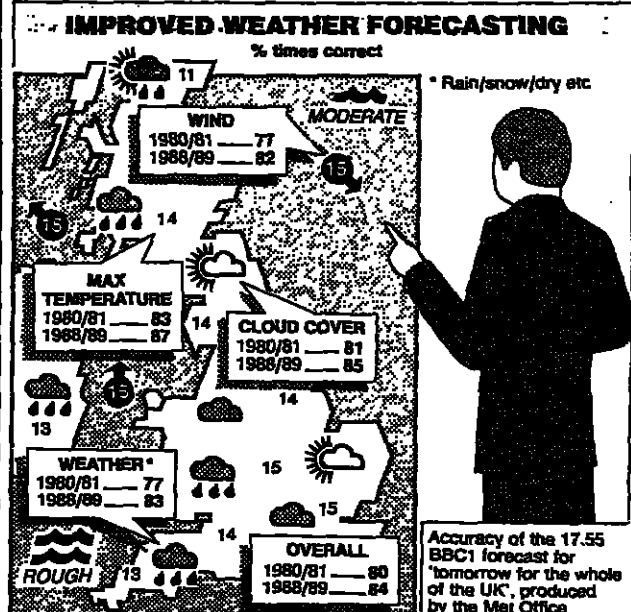
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## Morale blow to doctors

By JILL SEERMAN  
SOCIAL SERVICES  
CORRESPONDENT

FORTY-FIVE per cent of consultants have considered taking early retirement as a result of the health service changes, according to a British Medical Association survey published yesterday.

The survey of 900 consultants shows that 51 per cent of hospital senior doctors are suffering from poor morale, and three quarters of senior doctors feel less valued by the government than they were five years ago. More than two in five consultants said they would retire tomorrow if their full pension could be guaranteed and 18 per cent have considered leaving the health service for private practice.

The most dissatisfied consultants were working in South West Thames, Northern, Yorkshire, Oxford and West Midlands regional health regions. Doctors in East Anglia, Northern Ireland and Wales reported higher levels of morale. Although 68 per cent of doctors had high levels of job satisfaction more than half the consultants said their job satisfaction was worse or much worse than it was five years ago. Among those whose job satisfaction was low or very low, 84 per cent believed the reforms would make matters worse.

John Chawner, chairman of the BMA's consultants' committee, said that only 1 per cent of consultants thought the reforms would greatly improve their level of job satisfaction.

## No charge after baby is killed

Three boys aged 12 were arrested after a wooden plank, hurled from the roof of a 24-floor tower block, landed on an 18-month-old girl playing in a garden. But they will not be brought to court, police told an inquest yesterday.

No one saw the plank hit the baby and there was no firm evidence that the boys were on the roof of Balfour Tower, Detective Inspector William Cuts told an inquest at Poplar, east London, yesterday. The coroner, Dr Douglas Chambers, recorded an open verdict on Alia Begum, who died in the London Hospital on July 11 last year.

## Boys accused

Two boys aged 14 and 16 who were alleged to have caused £50,000 damage to a train at Middlesbrough, Cleveland, by obstructing the track with a 750cc motor cycle last Sunday were remanded into local authority care for a week by Teesside magistrates.

## Action settled

A brother of the Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane, who was murdered by loyalists two years ago, settled out of court yesterday after suing the army for false imprisonment. Martin Finucane's action followed his arrest in Londonderry three years ago.

## Nuclear blight

The Lake District village of Gosforth, Cumbria, is to demand compensation for tourism losses and lower house prices if an underground nuclear waste repository is built near by at Sellafield.

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# Nato offers consolation prizes to its old enemies in the east



Wörner: has been refining a firm but friendly message

FROM the moment east European governments knew the Warsaw Pact was to be finished, their leaders have been coming to Nato in search of a new political family. Nato ministers are gathering in Copenhagen today to give their answer: the new democracies are welcome to almost everything short of membership of the alliance.

The shrinking of Soviet power and the end of the Warsaw Pact left Nato with two outstanding dilemmas. For months Manfred Wörner, the organisation's secretary-general, and his officials have been refining a friendly but firm message to fans in eastern Europe desperate to join any international group carrying real respect.

President Havel of Czechoslovakia and President Walesa of Poland are happy to participate in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Gently but firmly, Nato will today tell members of the defunct Warsaw Pact that membership is not available to them, George Brock writes from Copenhagen

despite being aware that it probably could not stop a brawl in a bar. They are looking for friends who will impress their old Soviet conquerors in the event of there ever being a government in Moscow with hopes of reimposing Kremlin rule over its neighbours.

Nato's rejection will embody a list of compensatory gestures with which the east Europeans will have to content themselves for the time being. The rejection will also try to bury the illogical idea that there can be any such thing as associate membership of Nato. If allies are bound by an automatic duty to fight for any

one of their number under attack, there is only one kind of membership which counts. A country can be inside or outside such an alliance, but not in some intermediate state.

This is an indirect way of setting out the facts, already evident to the Poles: the Soviet military would not take kindly to any Nato attempt to expand to the East. Nato's current policy is based on the premise of most Western statesmanship towards President Gorbachev: that everything possible should be done to avoid helping his political enemies in the Soviet army. Instead, east European and Soviet soldiers

and bureaucrats will be offered courses in Western military academies, invited to symposiums and seminars, and offered advice on how to convert defence industries to peaceful use.

The Copenhagen meeting, scheduled to last two days, will otherwise continue the running skirmish between various multinational organisations bidding for the leading role in running Europe's armies by the year 2000. The current duel pits the British and French governments, representing respectively the "Atlanticist" and "European" choices, against each other. America and Germany hover uncertainly on the sidelines.

Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, made a start in putting his view in Paris on Tuesday, criticising Nato's plan for a rapid reaction force. Defence, one of the most loaded questions in the new European

Community treaty now being written by the 12 governments, will be high on the agenda at the end of June. But the issue is not likely to be settled before another Nato summit in November in Rome.

Britain wants to bend Nato into a new shape to suit the realities of the post-Cold War era. Defence, London has argued throughout this year, should be kept out of the EC, whose members have neither the common will nor the money to give or accept military guarantees. France, always resentful and suspicious of anything dominated by America, and apparently convinced that US troops will eventually leave Europe altogether, wants to lay the early foundations of an independent European defence capability run by the community.

Germany sits on the fence, unhappy with a European

assertiveness which might drive America back across the Atlantic. America itself is caught between its view that Europe should do more in its own defence and horror that Europeans might turn themselves into a disagreeable caucus inside Nato.

● London: Sir Michael Alexander, the British ambassador to Nato, is also to be appointed Britain's permanent representative to the Western European Union as a demonstration of Britain's commitment to close co-operation between the two bodies. Mr Hurd announced yesterday (Michael Binyon writes).

Addressing the union's assembly in Paris, the foreign secretary insisted, however, that the WEU should remain distinct from Nato and the institutions of political union in the EC, and said it should serve as a bridge between them.

## Americans see new Gatt hopes for averting trade war

By ROSEMARY RIGHER

AFTER six months of deadlock, there is now a serious chance of achieving the breakthrough on agricultural protectionism needed to save the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Americans believe. At this year's annual ministerial meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which ended in Paris yesterday, Carla Hills, President Bush's trade negotiator, claimed that she had succeeded in selling a plan of action to ministers of the European Community and that genuine negotiations can start.

Yesterday's closing communiqué by the OECD's 24-member countries agreed that the Uruguay round had "the highest priority on the inter-

national economic agenda". No deadline for concluding the round was set, beyond the hopes that agreement could be reached by the end of the year. But for the first time, all 12 EC governments agreed to negotiate "specific binding commitments on each of the following areas: domestic support, market access and export competition". The EC's refusal to negotiate separately on reduction of price supports to farmers, barriers against imports and the further subsidies it pays to dump overpriced EC farm goods on world markets, have been stumbling blocks in the round. The United States and its allies at the Gatt want particularly deep cuts in the EC's export subsidies.

The main source of Americans' optimism however is

their impression that the European Commission is, in the words of a senior American official, "turning full wheel" on agricultural reform. Significantly, Mrs Hills failed to obtain the EC commitment she sought to reach outline agreement on farm trade by July 31, before summer holidays interrupt negotiations. Frans Andriessen, the European trade commissioner, claimed that while he shared her optimism nobody should expect a "political breakthrough" until after the summer break, but the Americans believe that Mr Andriessen's reticence about timing is linked to the immediate priority Ray MacSharry the EC agriculture commissioner, wants to give to reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP). Mr MacSharry has told American negotiators that this internal reform will provide the momentum for solid political concessions at the Gatt.

The United States believes such a delay would again put the outcome of the round in doubt. But Washington now believes Mr MacSharry to be acting in good faith. This week in Paris, when the Irish banked at making specific commitments on agriculture, Mr MacSharry, an Irishman, is reported to have told Dublin to drop its objections.

The senior American official also said that Washington had found "a new dynamic" in Germany, hitherto as stubborn as France in its defence of the CAP. Jürgen Möllemann, the German economic minister, is reported to have told Arthur Dunkel, the director-general of the Gatt, to press hard for a deal on agriculture by mid-July - and told him that fresh deadlock could even be beneficial if it forced heads of government at the Western economic summit on July 15 to intervene.

There is a feeling that at least EC farm ministers will, this time, be left out of the negotiations. British officials say that the commission, being responsible for all trade negotiations on behalf of the Twelve, should be asked to go ahead and make what concessions are necessary to save the round without fresh instructions from either farm ministers or from the European Council.

Letters, page 15

## Bush backs G7 Gorbachev visit

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Bush told John Major yesterday that he will not object to President Gorbachev's attendance at next month's Group of Seven (G7) summit of heads of the world's leading industrialised nations in London.

The prime minister is expected to announce later this week that Mr Gorbachev will visit London next month to meet G7 leaders. He is having final consultations with other G7 leaders on the format under which the Soviet president will meet them. Senior Whitehall sources said that it was likely Mr Gorbachev's visit to London would coincide with the end of the summit next month. The sources insisted that he would not participate in the summit itself. It is likely that Mr Gorbachev would be able to meet leaders of the G7 group either at a formal dinner or separately, or both.

Although the White House emphasised that a final decision rested with Mr Major as the summit's host, the administration's willingness to discuss its earlier reservations

means that an invitation to the Soviet leader is inevitable. An American team has arrived in London to help plan the summit, and a principal task will be to decide how Mr Gorbachev should be allowed to present the G7 with his plans for economic and political reform in the Soviet Union. Washington remains determined that his presence should not distract the summit from other urgent economic issues, and that he should not be able to use the occasion as a "grandstand" for soliciting Western aid.

"The G7 will not become the G8," one official insisted, meaning that the Soviet leader will not be sitting at the summit table with the other leaders. The expectation is that he will be invited to address the participants at some stage during the proceedings, which last from July 14-16. Two weeks ago American officials were quoted as saying that the idea of Mr Gorbachev attending at the G7 was a "non-starter".

## Bonn's rail jewel is crown of thorns

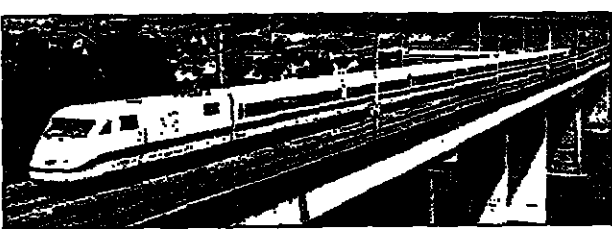
From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

FOR more than a decade Germans have been waiting for their own high-speed rail service. Despite the fact that it finally was launched last weekend, many of its passengers are still waiting.

The first streamlined, bullet-shaped InterCity Express - or ICE, as it has become known - left Munich for Hamburg just after 5am on Sunday to inaugurate what was meant to be a regular six-hour journey at 156 mph. After a spate of breakdowns, including the electric engines, the super flush toilets and the microwave ovens and beer cooler in the restaurant car, all 25 "trains of tomorrow" are having to be overhauled.

Teams of mechanics are working overtime at Deutsche Bundesbahn's (DB) workshops in Hamburg trying to repair five express trains a night. Their main jobs are to change toilet filters, revamp the automatic door opening systems and track down a fault in the engine's drive head, which has stopped several of the trains in their specially built tracks.

With the help of a extensive



Stopped in its tracks: Germany's InterCity Express

advertising campaign, DB pre-sold 90 per cent of the first class seats for the rest of this month, even though the ticket price is 14 per cent higher than the normal fare. Now DB has promised to reimburse the surcharge to passengers aboard trains arriving more than half an hour late.

Only 55 per cent of the Sunday services were on time and although the proportion rose to 89 per cent yesterday, the mystery drive head problem was still causing delays. Moreover, ICE engine Hercules was half an hour late leaving Fulda because it had needed to have all its wheels checked. ICE engine Lüneburg Heuff broke down and had to suffer the indignity of being pulled by an ordinary locomotive from Kassel to Hamburg.

Once aboard the trains pas-

313 mph. In 1985 the production model began tests.

Despite planning difficulties and runaway costs, DB persuaded the government to go on helping to pay for the development, arguing that the train would lure motorists off the roads, reduce demand on Germany's airspace and ultimately help to pull the rail system out of bankruptcy. Although the tracks, signalling equipment and rolling stock have cost about \$5.5 billion of taxpayers' money, the ICE was warmly welcomed by the public. Thousands inspected it on open days and there was considerable national pride before the first scheduled run.

Given all the delays, according to the DB spokesman in Frankfurt, the passengers are still showing great understanding for what he insists are no more than teething problems. Even the rail union is rallying to the defence of the ICE. The experts must have known about the weaknesses, said Rudi Schäfer, the union president. They should have delayed the inaugural service rather than expose the train to so much bad publicity. The planners should not have rushed into the new ICE age.

Letters, page 15



Winning smiles: President Gorbachev and Gro Harlem Brundtland, the prime minister of Norway, at a welcoming ceremony for the Soviet leader at Oslo airport yesterday before he received the Nobel Peace Prize. During his address he urged the West to support his reforms. Gorbachev's plea, page 1; Leading article, page 15

## Ryzhkov seeks the nostalgic vote

The contest for the Russian presidency is under way. Bruce Clark reports from Ufa on the campaign of Nikolai Ryzhkov, the former Soviet prime minister

THE smooth, American-trained diplomat helping to run Nikolai Ryzhkov's campaign for the Russian presidency sighed when a reporter asked nervously for a drink - other than polluted local tapwater - before a two-hour bus journey in the baking sun.

"I'm rather thirsty myself, but I am afraid that this is not a city of drinks," the dapper young man had to admit, looking round at Salavat, a petrochemical centre of 150,000 people, which the former Soviet prime minister had just visited. The city was built on the eastern edge of Europe about 40 years ago with the help of convict labour, but its buildings and steep roofs of corrugated iron looked much older.

The polite manners of its inhabitants, whose features range from pale European to high-cheeked Mongolian, also seem to have come from another age, no less than the crude slogans and posters anticipating the final victory of communism. But for all

their old-fashioned provincial courtesy, people here are as puzzled and angry about declining living standards as their compatriots in Moscow.

Drinks are not the only shortage. There is a scarcity of affordable clothes, particularly for children, although a nearby factory produces them. Sugar is rationed although the local farms are full of sugar beet. In an area of lavish pastures, the monthly meat ration is 4lb. "In the old days we did not have much money but it seemed to be enough," was a typical comment from a housewife.

It was to old certainties that Mr Ryzhkov tried appealing as he spoke to the crowd in front of the city's main building, a granite imitation of ancient Greece that houses both the Communist party

and the local government - concepts still hard to distinguish in the provinces.

Mr Ryzhkov, who is Boris Yeltsin's strongest challenger for the presidency of Russia in this week's election, invoked the name of a pre-perestroika leader to promise the repression of lawlessness, violent crime and economic sabotage. "In 1983 Comrade Yuri Andropov decided to deal with that problem, that everything be put back in its place. That is how it was and that is how it can be again," he said.

A pioneer of reform in the early Gorbachev years, Mr Ryzhkov is now identified as the man who wants to slow down the dismantling of the communist economy. Promising to defend the Soviet people's "socialist gains", the

former prime minister said that he would resist the onset of creeping capitalism and the sale of enterprises to "millionaires and foreigners". If factories were to be privatised, then their workers should get first refusal of the shares. Nor should the country mortgage itself by borrowing from the West to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars "which our children will hardly be able to pay off".

His implication that billions of Western dollars were there for the asking would sound like wishful thinking to the hard-pressed Kremlin economists who have been quoting White House approval.

Salavat is a long way from Washington, but its residents, who gave no more than polite applause and served up some tough questions (why, for example, had he never inspected the town and its ecological problems when he was prime minister?) may conceivably have a firmer grasp on some hard modern realities than their visitor.

## Romanian officers may train in Britain

London - In a further sign of increasing co-operation between East and West, Lieutenant-General Nicolae Spiroiu, the Romanian defence minister, wants to send some of his officers to Sandhurst and is seeking help from the West to build the next generation of armoured vehicles (Michael Evans writes).

General Spiroiu thinks the British system of training officers is the best in the world and plans to discuss training Romanian officers in Britain with Tom King, the defence secretary, today.

Yesterday, General Spiroiu said plans to modernise the Romanian army were unlikely to get far this year because of a diminishing defence budget. He said his country had no enemies, although there was concern about instability in the Balkans. His country was seeking Western radios and communication systems.

## Belgrade accord

Belgrade - Two Yugoslav republics which are threatening to secede gave their support to a compromise proposal aimed at breaking the deadlock over future "power" arrangements and avoiding civil war.

Croatia and Slovenia supported the idea of a loose federation of sovereign republics as a starting point for renewed talks in Sarajevo. (Reuters)

## Court struggle

Kiev - The trial of the Ukrainian nationalist leader, Stepan Khmara, was postponed yet again after more than 50 troops dragged his co-defendants from the courtroom. The trial has been described by the opposition as an attempt to silence Ukraine's democratic forces.

## Madrid blast

Madrid - A bomb killed a Spanish air force officer, aged 52, and injured six students aged between 14 and 17 in Madrid. It was the third terror attack in eight days, as the Basque separatist group Eta apparently sought to put pressure on the government to resume talks with its leaders.

## Aids enquiry

Paris - An enquiry has been ordered into claims that the health ministry's blood transfusion centre knowingly used blood infected with the Aids virus. Parliament was told a committee would establish the sequence of events in 1985, when the transfusion centre is accused of having used infected blood. (Reuters)

## Panga murders

Nairobi - A British woman, Julie Rzewek, and her daughter, Natasha, aged eight, were battered and hacked to death by intruders armed with pangas at their home here on Saturday, according to sources at the child's school. The police said that a man who worked for the family had disappeared. (AFP)

## Child enquiries

Bonn - Fifty enquiries about the forced adoption of children by the old East German regime have been made so far at the special investigating clearing house set up in Berlin, according to Thomas Krüger, the Berlin youth senator. He said it was wrong to suggest that there were thousands of such cases.

## Berlin flap

Berlin - A bird hunt has been launched, complete with two-man catch squads equipped with blankets, after the best known parrot at Berlin Zoo escaped during a storm. The parrot used strong winds to flap its way out of its open-top enclosure. Whoever finds the parrot will get lifelong free entry to the zoo. (AFP)



Bufi: asked to head a caretaker government

## Albanian leader chosen

Vienna - The Albanian president, Ramiz Alia, yesterday named Ylli Bufi as prime minister, officials said in Tirana. Mr Bufi, aged 40, currently minister of food, will head a multi-party caretaker government to lead the country into new elections.

The resignation of the communist government under an all-party deal aimed at ending a 20-day general strike that has crippled Albania, Europe's poorest country. (Reuters)

## Record number face terror of the 'bac'

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

WITH nerves jangling and a certain tremor in the hands, some 600,000 French schoolchildren yesterday embarked on the annual assault course of the baccalauréat. As usual, the dreaded four-hour philosophy paper came first, and as usual, some of the questions seemed more suited to rambling discussions about life over black coffee in a Left Bank cafe than a make-or-break examination for 17-year-olds.

How would you like to be confronted at 7.45 am with "Can self-knowledge ever be truly sincere?" or "Is there any such thing as a science of the unconscious?" As for works of the great thinkers, imagine having devoted your frantic final revision to Rousseau, Hegel and Sartre only to discover that yesterday's paper demanded a thorough acquaintance with Kant, Bergson and Merleau-Ponty.

Although the vast majority of pupils only encountered philosophy in their final year at school, the French educational system deems mastery of this subject to be obligatory

in preparation for the world beyond the classroom. No philosophy pass, no "bac", no automatic right to a university place: only the doleful prospect of having to take it all over again next June.

As the record number of entrants this year underlines, getting through the baccalauréat has become the yardstick by which most of them will be judged as adults, a vital key to their future advancement. Yet as pupils and teachers, parents and educationists routinely complain, the traditional system - based loosely upon the Napoleonic decree that established it in 1808 - is crying out for thorough reform.

Most critics argue that an examination founded on grandiose, not to say elitist, assumptions about the nature of French intellectualism is patently unsuited to mass education at the end of the 20th century. It has fallen to Lionel Jospin, the education minister, to do battle on this issue, in the knowledge that it has scared and defeated a good few of his predecessors.



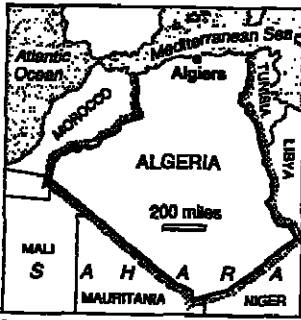
# State of siege gives Islamic militants a partial victory

FROM PENNY GIBBONS  
IN ALGERIA

PRESIDENT Chadli Benjedid has yielded, it is said, to pressure from Islamic fundamentalists by dismissing his government, declaring a state of siege and announcing the postponement of elections.

With tanks and troops on the streets yesterday after a night of anarchy, the Islamic Salvation Front eased its pressure on the government, telling its militants to end protests and hunting at an end to a strike called late last month. One source said the front, which called the strike to force changes in new voting law, was holding talks with officials close to the president. But the fundamentalists have not scored a complete victory. Their demands escalated from the repeal of voting laws, which they claim are biased against them, to the resignation of the president and the immediate setting up of an Islamic state. They might have got rid of Mohamed Hamrouche, the prime minister, who staked his reputation on the holding of elections, but President Chadli still holds his position with credible authority.

The president said yesterday he had moved in order to prevent a situation which would call for repressive measures on a wide scale. This was a reference to the past 11 days of fundamentalist agitation organised by the front, in which tens of thousands of demonstrators were involved



in bloody clashes with riot police. At least six people died on Tuesday when firing broke out. The government and the fundamentalists each blame the other for the use of live ammunition.

As the president spoke in the early hours, army tanks and convoys rolled into the city and took up positions outside key ministries and other buildings, as they had done during the riots of October, 1988, which forced him to introduce a programme of political reform leading to a multi-party democracy, but the programme has gone disastrously wrong.

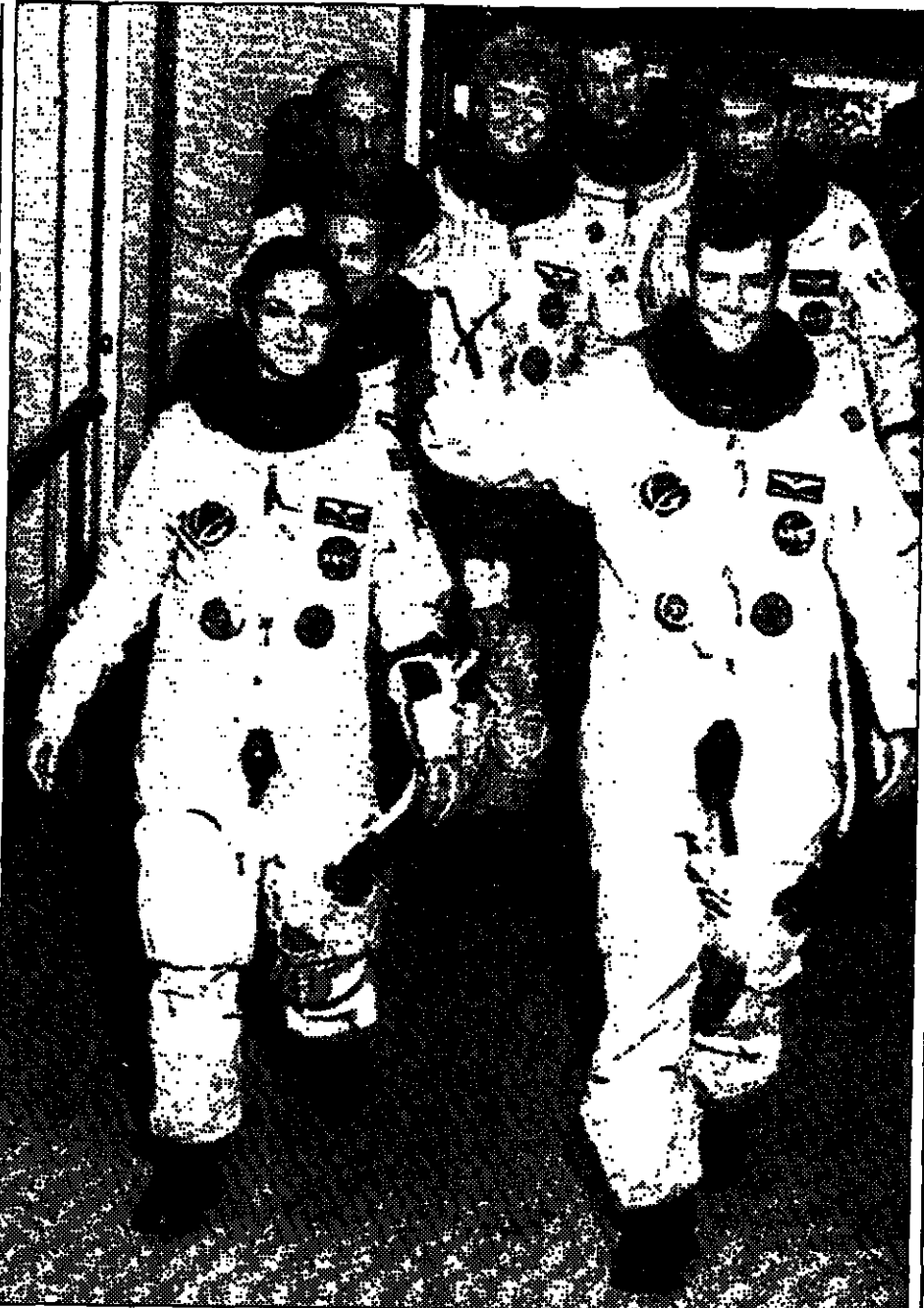
President Chadli said a new government will be formed only after consultation with other parties. He has not, however, said which of the 40 opposition parties, including the front, taking part in the shelved elections would be involved in consultations.

The fundamentalist protest marches, well organised at first, quickly deteriorated on Tuesday into running battles between stone-throwing youths and police, reminiscent

of 1988. The air was heavy with tear-gas hurled by security forces.

People stayed at home, too frightened to open their doors. Caught in a side-street by a blast of tear-gas, I climbed the stairs of a block of flats. A woman, hearing my strangled cries for help, opened a door and shoved me, coughing and gasping for breath, into a bathroom. The family, huddled in the living room, had made a pathetic attempt to make the room airtight by jamming damp cloths around the door frame. Residents opened windows and poured out buckets of water to damp down rising gas. Tear-gas even hit the motorway to the airport, swamping drivers in the crawling traffic.

Temper rose as news spread of the killings, and late on Tuesday demonstrators advanced on government buildings and tried to set fire to them before they were turned back by tear-gas. Fundamentalists were now for the first time throwing petrol bombs, and soon the burnt-out carcasses of police vans littered the roadside. Police and fundamentalists fought to control areas of the city. Police set up roadblocks on main streets, but fundamentalists built their own barricades and threatened passers-by with iron bars.



Third time lucky: the crew of the delay-hit space shuttle Columbia on their way to a third and successful lift-off attempt yesterday. Dummy with no future?, page 30

## Mubarak steps up pace of diplomacy

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN CAIRO

THE pace of Middle East diplomacy quickened yesterday as President Assad of Syria arrived in Cairo for previously unannounced talks with President Mubarak. Both men recently received personal communications from President Bush about his efforts to achieve a regional peace conference.

Western diplomatic sources said that Washington was hoping Egypt might persuade Syria to compromise on the two main issues blocking such a conference: its planned duration and the extent, if any, of involvement by the United Nations.

After three hours of talks, Amr Moussa, Egypt's new foreign minister told reporters: "There is total agreement between Egypt and Syria to start the peace process as soon as possible."

The minister admitted that attempts to convene a conference still faced hurdles, but added that he would be visiting Damascus next week for further talks.

The Syrian and Egyptian governments have begun to withdraw their troops from the Gulf after disagreements about conditions for their remaining in some of the main Gulf-Arab states. Security in the Gulf is understood to have been high on the agenda of talks held yesterday.

## Peace talk hopes raised by Levy

FROM RICHARD BEESTON  
IN JERUSALEM

DAVID Levy, the Israeli foreign minister, yesterday raised hopes that a Middle East peace conference could be convened in the coming weeks, although the Arab and Israeli sides appeared no nearer to overcoming the obstacles which have stalled the American-led initiative.

Mr Levy was asked in Paris whether a conference could take place if Israel accepted the compromise proposals put forward by President Bush in letters sent to Middle East leaders last week. "I am sure that all sides know this is an historic occasion that must be seized, and the answer is yes. Perhaps within two, three or four weeks. I cannot say, but certainly soon. I am sure of it," he said.

However, Mr Levy's optimistic statements were tempered by his admission that Israel would not budge on its refusal to allow United Nations participation at the conference. Syria and other Arab states have insisted that the organisation is present and the matter has stymied the peace process.

Washington: The White House said yesterday that there was no evidence to suggest that enough progress had been made to hold a Middle East peace conference in a matter of weeks. (Reuters)

Air raids, page 1

## Sense of relief across border

By SUSAN MACDONALD

MOROCCO and Tunisia must be breathing a little easier now that President Chadli Benjedid has declared a state of siege in Algeria, dismissed the government, postponed its first multi-party elections and ordered the army on to the streets to clamp down on Islamic fundamentalist unrest.

Both the neighbouring countries, and many others in the Arab world, have watched with growing unease the spread of Islamic fundamentalism in Algeria. King Hassan of Morocco and President Ben Ali of Tunisia have been monitoring the entire democratic process in Algeria, which, until the end of 1988, had appeared bogged down in its one-party system.

President Chadli's initiative for a multi-party democratic system came after rioting erupted in October 1988 when protesters demanded for political change. More than 1,000 people were killed when the army was called out. He

amended the constitution, allowed opposition parties to flourish and promised Algeria's first multi-party elections in 30 years, which were scheduled for June 27. The changes reflected poorly on Morocco's and Tunisia's controlled opposition parties.

The legalisation of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front in 1989 prompted both countries to express their concern. President Chadli said privately then he hoped to give the front enough rope to hang themselves, but his neighbours were doubtful that the tactic would work with fanatics.

Senior Algerian officials say President Chadli now has to clamp down hard since the two-week-old unrest in the country has begun to spiral out of control. As the election date approached, the front called a general strike late last month to protest against the passage of a law changing the voting system to one which, it said, favoured the governing Liberation National Front.

The Islamic front also demanded that presidential elections be held at the same time as those for the national assembly. Besides the strike, it called out thousands of supporters to march in daily protests. Government officials said the tense situation fast deteriorated with attacks on police stations.

The violent turn of events now raises questions over the future of the democratic experiment. Morocco and Tunisia, anxious about Islamic unrest in their countries, must now hope that President Chadli will maintain a firm hand for the time being.



Chadli had hoped to give Islamic front enough rope

## Sanctions still bite in crippled Aqaba

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

Little more than three months after the Gulf war, its main victim outside the battered confines of Iraq remains the Red Sea port of Aqaba, crippled by the continuing imposition of United Nations sanctions against Saddam Hussein.

Although ships have begun to return, all that head towards the narrow Gulf of Aqaba are first searched by aid ships. Searches can last days and diversions a cost up to £116,000, "as they will say 'to hell with Aqaba'." Taufiq, war, president of Jordan's shipping agents association, said. Food and other civilian necessities have been recovered from the blockade, at the close watch on Aqaba remains central to America's declared aim of

maintaining sanctions until Saddam is overthrown. Reports from Baghdad suggest Iraq is running out of spare parts and raw materials.

Since the war between Iraq and Iran, Aqaba had become Iraq's main lifeline, handling 70 per cent of its trade with the outside world. Officials estimate that it will be at least the end of next year before Aqaba's shattered economy reaches even 50 per cent of its pre-conflict level.

Mr Kawar said that five weeks ago the United States had agreed to the suggestion that inspections should be made in the port by Jordanian-UN teams, but that Jordan, which has lost about £930 million in trade from the war, had objected, on the ground that its sovereignty would be challenged.

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# Hawke forced on defensive as storm over pact increases

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

BOB Hawke, the Australian prime minister, was forced to defend his conduct in parliament again yesterday over allegations of misleading the electorate as a secret pact made prior to the 1990 election.

He came under criticism from Michael Tate, the justice minister, and Senator Graham Richardson, the Labor party's principal power-broker, as well as the opposition. During an angry parliamentary session in Canberra, Mr Hawke was also asked to explain his government's links with Sir Peter Abeles, a transport magnate and friend, who was a witness to the pact to hand

power to Paul Keating, Mr Hawke's deputy.

Earlier this week Mr Hawke was weakened politically by an unsuccessful leadership challenge from Mr Keating. Now the prime minister's integrity is being questioned by the opposition and Labor members after Mr Keating's revelation of the pact, made while Mr Hawke continued to assure parliament and the public that he would carry on as leader. The controversy could damage irrevocably his already shaky future.

Mr Hawke was questioned about the role played by Sir Peter, who owns the TNT and Ansett transport companies.

Sir Peter was one of two witnesses to the deal. Mr Hawke's and Mr Keating's version of events differ. Mr Keating says Mr Hawke asked Sir Peter to be a witness. Mr Hawke insists he did not, saying it was the second witness, Bill Kelly, the union leader, who asked Sir Peter.

Mr Hawke admitted to Peter Keith, the deputy opposition leader, that his version differed from Mr Keating's, but insisted that his recollection was accurate. "The fact that I have a distinctly different recollection from the one that he (Mr Keating) put forward is incidental to the issue of the meeting," he said.

Mr Hawke's defence has been rejected by Mr Richardson, who called the pact "a mistake," and Mr Tate, who said: "I don't believe the end justifies the means - never have."

Mr Hawke yesterday denied that he had any special relationship with Sir Peter. David Jull, the opposition spokesman on tourism and aviation, asked Mr Hawke to explain why Sir Peter's companies had benefited from the government financially on five counts, including a government agreement during a pilots' dispute. The agreement allowed Sir Peter's airline, Ansett, to charter air force planes at 75 per cent below cost.

The prime minister said: "If there is one prime minister and one government which has acted in terms of a disastrous impact upon the interests of Ansett-TNT, it is this prime minister and this government."

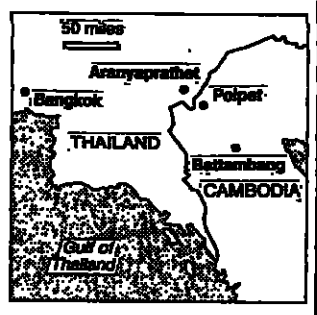
● London: A meeting of Commonwealth leaders next week has been postponed until October because of events in Australia which make it impossible for Mr Hawke to attend, and the death of Rajiv Gandhi, Chief Emeke Anyanwu, the Commonwealth secretary-general, said. (Reuters)

## Cambodia peace drive in danger

FROM JAMES PRINGLE ON THE THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER

UNITED Nations-backed efforts to end the 12-year war in Cambodia seem in danger of collapse as a result of the impasse reached at the end of the peace talks in Indonesia. But it is unclear whether this will lead to renewed fighting in Cambodia.

The danger of collapse was foreshadowed by the failure of Cambodia's four warring factions to reach agreement on a blueprint for peace drawn up by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council during three days of talks in Jakarta. After the talks, Hun Sen, the Cambodian prime minister, said he and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the resistance leader, had agreed to stop accepting foreign military support. "In order to make the ceasefire more effective, Prince Sihanouk and myself have agreed that we should stop receiving



foreign military assistance," he told reporters in Jakarta.

Artillery fire around the Khmer Rouge gem-mining town of Pailin during the past few days could be a harbinger of renewed fighting, but intelligence sources say the shelling is not regarded as a serious breach of the ceasefire, which began on May 1.

"One has to ask oneself if the two communist factions (the Phnom Penh regime and the Khmer Rouge) and their backers really have the will to make peace," an Asian envoy in Bangkok said.

## Big push by Hindu zealots for Gujarat

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT

HINDU revivalists barnstormed the western state of Gujarat yesterday, travelling in a rowdy and colourful convoy through blistering heat in an attempt to save a political strategy upset by Rajiv Gandhi's assassination.

Gujarat has been nursed by leaders of the pro-Hindu movement as a vanguard for taking the revivalist message beyond northern India. Nobody knows how big the sympathy wave might be following Gandhi's murder, but the odds are that the Congress (I) party will make a stunning comeback as Muslims are rallying to the party in the hope of preventing a victory by Hindu religious zealots.

The fight for Gujarat, which votes on June 15 in the delayed general election, is a straight contest between the Congress and the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in a state which has one of the worst records of Hindu-Muslim conflict in India. The outcome in Mahatma Gandhi's home state will be a pointer to the influence of Hindu fundamentalism beyond the polarised north, where political extremism thrives.

Gandhi's assassination has reduced the election campaign in Gujarat and in other parts of the country to one essential issue: stability. The BJP has toned down its religious rhetoric to focus on stability, hijacking the Congress party's theme.

In the Muslim quarter of Ahmedabad, every political poster is for Congress. "The Hindu fundamentalists want us to go to Pakistan," said Aqueel Shaikh, who runs a hole-in-the-wall chemist shop. "Only Congress is strong enough to fight the BJP. You won't find any Muslim here voting for anybody else. 'Our survival depends on Congress winning.'"



Dynasty's daughter: Priyanka Gandhi, aged 19, seen with her mother, Sonia, is regarded as the family's political heir and a future leader for Congress (I)

belief in Hindu nationalism. In the 1989 general election the BJP captured 12 of the state's 26 seats to the Congress party's three. Congress believes it is set to get 15 this time, with the BJP getting perhaps 11. Such an outcome would be a setback to Hindu hardliners who have banked on capturing Gujarat after years of planning.

Mr Advani said nothing to the crowds yesterday that might be construed as openly anti-Muslim. He urged tolerance towards Muslims but demanded they assimilate in a Hindu-dominated India.

● Colombo: India offered a £14,000 reward for information on the Gandhi killing in leaflets dropped on areas held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in northern Sri Lanka. (AP)

Mr Advani said nothing to the crowds yesterday that might be construed as openly anti-Muslim. He urged tolerance towards Muslims but demanded they assimilate in a Hindu-dominated India.

## Education chief quits over Seoul violence

Seoul - Yoon Hyoung Sop resigned yesterday as South Korea's education minister, taking responsibility for an attack by students on Chung Won Shik, the prime minister. The move came amid continued unrest throughout Seoul.

Mr Chung was kicked, punched and pelted with eggs and flour by students as he was leaving Hankook University on Monday. Students have vowed to crash what they claim is an attempt to suppress campus activism.

About 1,000 riot police stormed Hanyang University yesterday to arrest Kim Jong Shik, head of the banned National Council of Student Representatives, but 40 students fought back with petrol bombs and he escaped. (AP)

## Offer to resign

Dhaka - Shahabuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh's interim president, has offered to resign, saying the country is gripped by political instability. The former chief justice, who took over from Hussain Ershad six months ago, said differences between political parties were triggering unrest.

## Bitter end

Singapore - Quek Kee Chong, aged 26, given 48 strokes for a case in a single day for armed robbery, is suing the government for "grievous injury to buttocks". The law allows only 24 strokes to be imposed at any one trial. (Reuters)

## Expulsion row

Colombo - Sri Lankan opposition MPs have condemned the decision to expel the British High Commissioner and urged the government to reconsider the decision to treat David Gladstone as persona non grata. (Reuters)

## Short shrift

Peking - China's only dwarf bar, at the Huafu hotel in the coastal city of Fuzhou, has closed and sacked its dwarf bartenders and waiters because their wage demands were too high, the Workers' Daily reported. (Reuters)



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### Education chief quits over Seoul violence

Seoul - Yoon Hwang, education minister, has resigned over his handling of the violence in the city. He was criticised for not taking responsibility for the attack by students on the police. He was replaced by Kim Jong-il.

### Offer to resign

Dr. [Name] has offered to resign from his post as [Title] due to [Reason].

### Bitter end

[Name] has reached a bitter end to his [Career/Struggle] after [Event].

### Expulsion

[Name] has been expelled from [Institution] for [Reason].

### Short shrift

[Name] has been given a short shrift in the [Court/Forum].



Market forces: vegetables under scrutiny by state registered dietitian Luci Daniels, who thinks we all need at least one session with an expert

# Hungry for food help?

**Personal advice on eating could succeed where large-scale campaigns fail, Ann Kent reports**

Advice on how we should change our eating habits has been delivered with deafening regularity over the past ten years. Anyone with even the most fleeting interest in health must know that we should eat less fat, more fibre and more fruit and vegetables.

On Tuesday the message was blasted out again in the form of the government's green paper, "The Health of the Nation". It suggested that our poor diets are turning us into the sick men and women of Europe. Are the British simply turning a deaf ear to those who would wish to interfere? Or is the advice being given in the wrong way?

Luci Daniels, a state registered dietitian who is trained to advise individuals, suggests that most people do not know how to apply health messages to their own lifestyles. Just as the wealthy now have personal exercise trainers, she suggests that the average person needs at least one session with a dietary expert.

Mrs Daniels, the spokeswoman for the British Dietetic Association, advises private patients from her rooms in Harley Street, and finds that many go over the top when they try to improve their own eating habits.

"They believe that less fat and less sugar mean they can't eat these things at all," she says. "They try to lunch on salad, find they are hungry by the middle of the afternoon, and give up. All they need to do is add some fish, and potatoes or bread."

She also finds that patients tend to latch on to one health message to the exclusion of others. The over thirties

find it hard to accept advice to include more bread, pasta and rice in their diets because they are still conditioned to think these are fattening. "The people I see are usually well read, but still confused about how they can achieve a healthy diet. Even those who think they are on good diets can make some improvements."

The problem with providing individual advice is that 57 million (the UK population) into 2,500 (the estimated number of NHS dietitians) will not go. Yet if we are to believe the statistics, a large proportion of the population needs help.

The average blood cholesterol level in British adults is more than six millimoles per millilitre, when the desirable limit is 5.2; average dietary fat consumption is about 42 per cent of the diet, when it should be 30 per cent; half the population is overweight, and vast numbers of others suffer high blood pressure.

Dr Tony Leeds, a medical practitioner and lecturer in nutrition at King's College, London, agrees that individual advice is needed. "But with such enormous numbers of people - half the population - needing help, there will have to be some sort of compromise. We will need to

begin with the high-risk groups." Anyone who wants personal dietary advice should first ask his or her GP. The patient may then be referred to a practice nurse, health visitor, or very occasionally to a dietitian who is attached to the practice. Long waiting lists mean that unless they are obese or have a problem such as high blood cholesterol levels, healthy patients are unlikely to be sent on to a hospital dietitian. Patients can ask their doctors to refer them to a private state registered dietitian, who is likely to charge £40 to £50 an hour.

Inevitably there is professional jealousy between those who have taken degrees in nutrition and those who simply call themselves nutritionists. Because some of the more alternative clinics in the private sector had started to run their own diploma courses, some with very low entry requirements, the conventionally trained nutritionists decided to set up their own register and are known as "registered nutritionists". This title can be given only to those who have completed a three-year degree course in nutrition or a closely related subject, followed by three years' practical experience. State registered dietitians also do a three-year degree course in nutrition, usu-

### Value of screening

A SUNDAY newspaper headline suggesting that for women under 50 breast screening might not be as life-saving as had been hoped, and might even be counterproductive, gave a misleading impression of an eight year Canadian study of 50,000 women.

The trial results have yet to be formally published, but in interviews its investigators seem to attribute any disappointing results not to the screening but to faulty management of the early cases it detects. British experts also point out that the Canadian statistics are at odds with other international trials.

Small malignant tumours picked up by mammography (routinely offered to women over 50 in Britain) are treated by the removal of the growth (lumpectomy), radiation and possibly chemotherapy. The Canadians suggest that in some cases treatment failure may be because there is an unacceptable delay in starting chemotherapy. They postulate that the initial treatment may well undermine the body's immune system, so that if any malignant cells have spread from the primary tumour they are able to become established; only chemotherapy can destroy them.

### Corns, horse and human

IF THE patients who are regularly reduced to hobbling by painful corns had a fellow feeling for Mystiko, the Derby runner who was found lame with an equine corn last Sunday, it was misplaced, for they are quite different.

Human corns are small areas of hardened skin, a callus, which often form as the result of other foot troubles such as hammer toes, collapsed arches, abnormal big toe joints or weak ankles. They develop at the point where the shoe presses the skin against the distorted foot. In time the corn develops a nucleus.

Mr Alan Wood of the London Foot hospital says that the first principle of treatment is to remove the cause, usually ill-fitting shoes, followed by paring down the corn and removing the nucleus. Professor Barry Edwards of the School of Veterinary Medicine in Liverpool says the term corn in horses refers to a small area of bruising, often with bleeding, and oozing, just above the hoof. It usually betrays its presence by a stained patch on the hoof. Equine corns result from irregular pressure on the horse's foot. There are numerous causes, of which leaving shoes unchanged too long is one. Treatment is to prevent infection.

Counties rugby football team and the Essex county cricket side, says that ice applied within the first 24-48 hours to soft tissue injuries, in which there has been bleeding or oozing into the tissues, is useful. The era of the frozen pea treatment is over, however, for McLeod's, a Wrexham company, has introduced a washable vinyl pack filled with a gel which remains flexible after freezing; it can be wrapped around the limb like a cuff and fastened into position with Velcro straps.

### Frozen peas obsolete

IAN Botham is not alone with his damaged hamstring, for after each weekend hundreds of amateur sportsmen rest with damaged joints and limbs covered by a bag of frozen peas. Dr Tom Crisp of the Royal London hospital, who is doctor to the Eastern

# Masquerades behind the white mask

**How can patients be sure their doctor is genuine?**

The jailing this week of pseudo-doctor Rakesh Sood, who examined pregnant women, authorised abortions, and falsely declared he had qualified in South Africa to practise medicine, draws attention to a disturbing condition that is plaguing the medical profession - Bogus Doctor Syndrome.

Reports from the past year include a phoney medical student who spent six weeks doing rounds at an Oxford hospital, a bus conductor and former army nurse who advertised himself as a surgeon performing cut-price circumcisions, and an American army reservist who played eye surgeon in the Gulf.

"It's a lovely hornet's nest," says Professor Vincent Marks, the professor of clinical biochemistry at the University of Surrey, a registered medical doctor and a founder member of Healthwatch, formerly the Campaign Against Health Fraud. "These are people who realise doctors are held in high regard - with high rewards - and feel they could do it themselves. Often they succeed very well. And you could say if they get away with it that long perhaps they're right."

The recent film *Paper Mask* - starring Paul McGann as a hospital porter who takes the credentials of a dead doctor and, with the help of a nurse, runs a casualty ward for months without detection - is based on a book by Dr John Collee, the *Observer* magazine columnist. He wrote it after working as a locum in London. He was amazed that he could turn up at a hospital in a white coat, say "I've come to look after casualty" - and be allowed to get on with it.

Professor Jim Watson, professor of psychiatry of the United Medical and Dental School of Guy's and St Thomas's hospitals, says that "you could train an intelligent sixth former to do blood pressure, take blood and undertake certain reflex examinations. So it is understandable that someone who has observed a lot of medical activity could get a taste for it - and medical students develop an embryonic bedside manner in the first year which is quite close to being a confidence trick."

Most bogus doctors appear to be failed medical students or people on the periphery of hospital life, who admire or envy doctors. Professor Watson says such "overcompensation" is understandable. "They wouldn't have to be mad. Being mad is usually rumoured, and I've never seen a case where serious mental illness made someone masquerade as a doctor."

David Weeks, a clinical psychologist at the Royal Edinburgh Infirmary and an expert on behavioural disorders and eccentricities, thinks differently. "Some of these bogus doctors are not eccentric - they are pathological - and it's a quite extraordinary pathology, imitating authority figures in general and doctors in particular. They may feel a vocation to do good - or they do it for the prestige or the money."

Heather Brown, the deputy registrar of the General Medical Council, and head of its overseas division, responsible for Sood's registration, admits: "What the system does not protect against is where people have stolen documents or have managed to get originals from the company that prints them. But we constantly

review our system, and all documents we demand are originals, and are checked by two people and sometimes more."

If a phoney doctor does not pretend to be registered or attempt to register falsely, he falls outside the jurisdiction of the General Medical Council (GMC). "The title of 'doctor' is not protected in this country," says Alan Kershaw, secretary to the GMC's standards committee and an expert on medical ethics. "And you don't need to be registered in order to practise medicine. It is only a crime to pretend to be registered. And you only need to be registered in order to work in the NHS, sign death certificates and prescribe controlled drugs."

Mr Kershaw acknowledges there is no fail-safe way for a patient to tell whether a hospital doctor is genuine, as even the bona fide ones do not carry certification. But if you are suspicious, he recommends checking with the practice or hospital and, as a last resort, with the GMC. But the GMC's General Medical Register of 190,000 doctors does not include photographs or physical descriptions.

Professor Marks says: "You could argue that we should all have an identification card from the GMC." But the GMC has no plans for such a scheme. "I don't think the scale of the problem would justify it," Mr Kershaw says.

"There is no security in hospitals," Professor Watson warns. "People are masquerading as various types of workers at all times." And he adds: "Since most patients judge by the bedside manner, the bogus doctor can come off better than the real one."

So who can you trust? "A genuine doctor after 104 hours on duty would be as likely to make a mistake as a bogus one," says Dr Victoria McKee, the medical adviser on *Paper Mask*.

"Some doctors work so hard that their ability to relate to the outside world can become stunted, and a lay person might have a better bedside manner. If someone like this can fool the doctors, what hope is there for a patient?"

VICTORIA MCKEE

### WHERE IT ALL FITS.

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# Old Flo with a familiar view

Victoria Glendinning  
on the latest bit of  
stylish multicultural  
name-dropping in  
la dolcissima Firenze

Picking up a new novel by Francis King, you feel anticipation and apprehension. His fiction, while it always entertains, is generally spiced with something disturbing — sexual or psychological manipulation, revenge, madness, cruelty, deviance, acts of darkness. Some critics have found this strain in him unpleasant. God knows why, when you think of some of the unmitigated nastiness that passes as literature. The trouble is a clash of conventions. Francis King's novels really are literature.

So reading *The Ant Colony*, set in Florence just after the second world war, you wait for the poison at the bottom of the glass. You wait and wait. There is no poison. The novel is in essence as wholesome as Jack, the young Yorkshireman who arrives in Florence as a temporary teacher of English at the Institute. He has an Oxford degree and a taste for romantic poetry. But he knows nothing of the world, nor of Italy and the Italians. His innocence and ignorance are hard to credit. But maybe young graduates, raised in the provinces, really were like that, in the late Forties.

A pretty girl called Iris arrives in Florence on the same train. She too is to teach English at the Institute, and she too is naive and inexperienced. But she comes from a different class. Her mother and grandmother had many friends in Florence before the war, and Iris arrives to find welcoming messages from the dwindling English community and from ageing Florentine artists and aristocrats. Jack, of course, falls in love with Iris, but he hasn't a hope.

The novel traces the social and emotional trajectories of these two during their year in a Florence still in ruins from the bombing. Francis King is brilliant at evoking exactly what it feels like to be young and at a loss, and the peculiar apathy, not quite homesickness, which paralyses the lone



Francis King, stirrer of a roman à clef with a gay aesthete, a female monster, young lovers, and other assorted Anglo eggs Florentines

lodge in a strange city. He is skilled (he has done it before) at evoking the appearance of the young English male in Europe before the advent of jeans and T-shirts. Throughout the Florentine summer, Jack sweats in grey flannel trousers and a hairy tweed sports coat, which he is unwilling to take off (I mean the jacket, not the trousers, though he retains both) in case his wallet might drop out. Jack boards with the Institute's director of studies, an aspiring novelist, and is forced to witness the collapse of his hosts' clapped-out marriage. The earnest friendliness of the Institute and its staff counterpoints the feverish social activity of smart, cultured Anglo-Florentine in decline.

Elegant young Iris, frequenting smarter addresses than Jack, has her first-ever affair with a young

American, whose prior and permanent attachment is to an ageing, alcoholic female monster who collects art. There is scope in this triad for some dark probing, but Francis King probes only within the bounds of what Iris apprehends, which is not much. The female monster resembles, in outline, several such women in real life in that place and period. There is a similar familiarity about Ivor Luce, a discreetly homosexual aesthete, son of a philanthropic father living in a palatial villa and at fault with every scandal. Ivor smoothly takes Jack in hand, and woos him with culture and excursions, but does not have his way with him. The complexity of Ivor is only

THE ANT COLONY  
By Francis King  
Constable, £13.99

explored in so far as Jack chooses to explore it, which isn't far.

There is virtually no plot, and so no resolution, just a series of encounters and entanglements, drawing Jack and Iris deeper into the web of Anglo-Italian insinuations, rivalries, bitchiness, snobbery — and in some cases pathos — with old grandeur and connoisseurship fading, old loves lost, and lives ending in loneliness and the unemptied pot under the bed.

The authenticity of this recreated Florence is patent. If Francis King knew less about it, his novel would have been more exciting. The decision to see everything and everybody from the viewpoints of the young

English pair determines the tone of the novel, which is uncharacteristically bland, since they suffer little more than the statutory loss of innocence. Their ignorance about Florence, which everyone is keen to remedy, facilitates a good deal of cultural name-dropping and much guide-book material about restaurants, paintings, history and architecture, thinly disguised as anecdote.

Jack knows he is leaving without having got to grips with the devious and intricate passions of the "ant colony". "That's where I have the advantage over you," says his host the novelist. "I know the exact truth about every one of the characters in my novel. Every single one." So, I am sure, does Francis King. But he hasn't divulged enough of what he knows about them to us.

## Tales of the sex Krieg

Frances Hill

THE THREE WOMEN K  
By Helke Sander  
Translated by Helen Petzold  
Serpent's Tail, £7.99  
GOING BACK  
By Penelope Lively  
Penguin, £3.99

his life, even when he is not lost halfway up an Alp. He hates and resents his job and bemoans the lack of opportunity to do something else, but when Ms K tries to

find out what he would enjoy he "grows vague".

But Helke Sander is far too perceptive and intelligent a writer to ascribe all foolishness and vice to men and all wisdom and virtue to women. She balances her male characters' lack of insight into themselves with her female characters' continual examination of their feelings and motives, but unaltered, self-defeating behaviour. As she strides the Alpine slopes with her awkward companion, Ms K cannot forbear questioning him on topics she knows to be sensitive, such as why he has brought tins of sausages when dried meat would have weighed less, and what form of

contraception he uses. Another character continually gives in to her ex-husband's demands for money though she knows this is foolish. A third is convinced that if she looks into her ex-lover's eyes she will be cured of her love for him, and in trying to meet his gaze in her rearview mirror as she overtakes his car, is caught speeding.

The book offers profound insights about human character as well as huge amusement. Sander is not always well served by her translator. The English is sometimes clumsy to the point of obscurity. Particularly baffling is the phrase "I'm chronically het." "Het", it seems from the context,

means "randy". Perhaps this was a misprint for "hot", but the translation is odd enough in many other passages in the book for one not to be sure.

There can be no complaints about the English of Penelope Lively's *Going Back*. Though first published as a children's novel the book is fluent and eloquent. It has now been reissued on the adult list, and deserves to be. Few children would find much of interest in its sensitive exploration, from a middle-aged perspective, of a childhood mostly idyllic but at times horrifying. But for an adult reader this is intriguing and moving. The rural wartime setting is in itself full of interest, and there is pathos and drama in the conflict between the female protagonist's brother and their imperious father.

■ *Sister Beneath the Sheet*, by Gillian Lindscott (Scribners, £12.95). Exhilarating romp in the demi-monde of early century Biarritz. The late courtesan Topaz Brown has unexpectedly left a large sum to the suffragette cause. Nell Bray, newly released from Holloway, is sent to the resort to claim the money; she finds instead controversy over Topaz's demise, and an array of eccentric local and visiting characters, a rabidly anti-Pankhurstian MP among them, all seemingly dedicated to preventing

■ *Key Clutches*, by Aaron Elkins (Collins, £12.99). Event to commemorate fatal scientific expedition of 30 years ago, interrupted by appearance of bodily remains hitherto hidden by Alaskan ice. Old bones expert Gideon Oliver on hand to suggest that the skeletons don't bear out the accepted avalanche version of the tragedy. The survivors are conveniently present, as old guits and secrets materialise from the past. A satisfying sequel, and unexpectedly fascinating on bones lore.

FROM the poet of rude words — of penis envy, oral intercourse, and inflatable dolls — comes a book without sex. There's a lot of wishful thinking at work, and more than a dollop of self-deception, but in the end it's quite clear that our hero is, to be frank, impotent.

The Misfortunes of Nigel is a book about a man who goes wrong. At first, Nigel seems to have everything going for him: good looks, doting parents, the most sentimental education that money can buy. But hopes of a glittering career in the literary world go hurtling downhill after a trip to Europe (less of a Grand Tour than a ghostly detour) and a mistaken embrace with a Neapolitan high wire trapezist called Gina Caka (misfortune no.2). From here on things just get worse: a measure of professional success stirred with a double shot of domestic hell is spiked by a series of calamitous fallings out — with editors, with casual lovers, finally with the headmaster of the schoolgirl he just happens to drop his tracksuit bottoms for while out on a "medical" jog. There's no point making plans for Nigel, it seems, as he'll only mess them up.

Until this point, you might think that Nigel was simply the victim of very bad luck, but, as it rapidly becomes apparent, he has no one but himself to blame. Misogynist, egotistical, sordidly self-flagellating, he is trapped by a complete lack of consideration for, or imaginative understanding of, others. There's a certain amount of mileage in the narrative irony generated by this — Nigel brutally and consistently condemned out of his own mouth, but the book is ultimately as limiting as his viewpoint. Nigel is there to be hated, the personification of slugs and snails and puppy dog tails, the victim of dislike. He's the sort of creature that might have inspired a short sharp poem, but as the subject of a novel, leaving no room for sympathy, no cubby-hole of identification, he traps you in

## Four letter Fiona

Sabine Durrant

THE MISFORTUNES OF NIGEL



By Fiona Pitt-Kethley  
Peter Owen, £12.95  
DOUBLE LIVES  
By Stephen Wall  
Bloomsbury, £13.99  
THE HOP QUAD DOLLY  
By Simon Carr  
Hutchinson, £11.99

the desert of his basement flat. Stephen Wall's *Double Lives* is about the pain of recognising other people, rather than the painful consequence of forgetting them. A series of short interludes demonstrates different facets of romantic or sexual intrigue: here is the academic chasing a long trailing skirt through the libraries of a university town; a strained dinner party between former lovers; the suicide of a beloved husband. The stories are divided from each other — the characters have different names and live in separate parts of England — and yet are part of the same

cycle. The chapters have a sequential tone — one will begin at the time of day for example, that the previous one left off — and a certain timbre of pain runs through the sections, as each circles the apparent impossibility of separating from a person loved. It would be sentimental stuff, if Wall didn't deal toughly with the prose, tightening it at just the right moments, then turning to catch an exactly poignant detail — "He gently took her hands away but touched one of them with his lips as he did so, as if to offset any suggestion of rejection." The stories are tightly bound, too, by the image of water, of bridges and drowning, building a sense that the way to cope with death or departure is by the obliteration of self.

Double Lives is as cleansing as *The Misfortunes of Nigel* is cynical. The *Hop Quad Dolly* is a mad *Tristram Shandy* of a novel, riddled with typographical games and conventional representations — of a beating, a timetable, a crowd wave — and with so many authorial asides ("But it doesn't make any sense; you want to say") and rebuffs to the reader ("If its any of your damn business") the prose comes to seem like a football pitch, full of unforeseen tackles and cries of "offside". It's less of a fanciful analogy than it might seem, for *The Hop Quad Dolly* is a tale of the best days of the narrator's life: his time at school.

Simon Carr's narrative persona is a rather odd cove — half sussed, half suckered. His control of the traditions and ceremonies of Salisbury College is thrown to the wind, not by the arrival of the new headmaster, but by a young chap with long eyelashes called Dynecor, who refuses to buckle under as he should. There are lots of jokes — not all of them schoolboy — and just a glimmer of a homosexual undercurrent that Fiona Pitt-Kethley would be proud of.

## Jolly Czech-mating

FIRST NOVEL

Carol Davis

THE BOOK OF WISHES AND COMPLAINTS  
By Zina Rohan  
Hutchinson, £13.99

her aunt, which had been left to become over-run by chickens and their excrement.

Through a clever use of flashback we are introduced to the main characters and events in Hana's life. These include the kaftan-wearing foodaholic, English Nora, who makes every effort not to fit into the native country of her Czech husband. He becomes increasingly henpecked and

FOR half a century writers have struggled with the paradox that the Holocaust is a forbidden subject, and the only subject. In *Rose*, one of the monuments of imaginative writing about the Holocaust, Cynthia Ozick adopts the strategy worked out by the ironists Vladimir Nabokov and Isaac Bashevis Singer. She registers the crime of the Nazis not through description of the unimaginable but through evocation of the beauty and culture that European Jews were carelessly enjoying on the eve of catastrophe.

Although it appeared in the *New Yorker* magazine as long ago as 1983, the novella has been unavailable in Britain until now. Its publication, alongside the eponymous short story, in *The Shawl* (Cape, £4.99), is therefore something to celebrate. Ozick chronicles a few ordinary days in the life of a middle-aged survivor of the Warsaw ghetto and the death camps, who now wanders around Miami, a crazed, disorganised creature, writing letters to an imaginary daughter because her real

## Memory holds the key

NEW SERIES

Hugh Barnes

daughter perished as an infant in a camp, wearing the shawl. *Rose* is picked up in a laundromat by a retired button manufacturer, a coarse, kindly American Jew, to whom she would not have given a passing glance in "the life before". The novella, however, goes on to suggest that But sanity is not possible in "the life after". Ozick persuades us that *Rose*'s madness is the madness facing everybody who lives with the knowledge that the things that happened in the camps could

happen. The writing, which is incomparably fine, pierces you with such grief and anger that sometimes you have to stop reading.

This enterprising series of original paperbacks also includes *In Prison of Shadows* by Jun'ichiro Tanazaki (Cape, £4.99). Quarter of a century after his death, the Japanese novelist is still relatively unknown in the west. Tanazaki's fiction shows the bizarre reaching out to possess Japan, a country whose etiquette is ancient, lovely and, at times, quite paralysing. But this essay offers a gentler, slightly quaint discussion of the clash between the shadows of tradition and the dazzling light of modernity.

The last book in the series, *Of Walking in Ice* (Cape, £4.99), by Werner Herzog, is a pilgrimage and a meditation. In 1974 Herzog set off from Munich and walked to Paris, because his friend Lotte Eisner, the film-maker, was dying there. It was a remarkable journey, and this is a remarkable account of it.

## Sisters under the dirty macs

Linda Barnes's second novel, *The Snake Tattoo*, was a clear warning to Sue Grafton and Sara Paretsky that their long-held supremacy of the American feminist private eye novel was under threat. With *Coyote*, her third, Barnes destroys the duopoly and turns it into a ruling triumvirate. Her heroine shamus Carlotta Carlyle, 6ft, red headed, part-time Bostonian cabbie, has the compassion and societal angst of Paretsky's Vic Warshawski and the humour of Grafton's Kinsey. A distressed woman from somewhere in central America asks her to retrieve her green card, the work permit without which immigrants are turned into hunted fugitives. The card has been found on a mutilated body, and Carlotta's delvings lead her into the desperate and vicious twilight world of illegal immigration; her adopted Hispanic "sister" becomes dangerously involved. Social comment in never-flagging story.

the movement from getting its inheritance. A jolly mystery in fun wrapping.

■ *Sleeping in the Blood*, by Robert Richardson (Gollancz, £13.99). Playwright tee Gus Maltravers returns to hackery to write a feature on Sixties icon Jenni Hilton, re-emerged after 20 years' obscurity. She had quit London after giving evidence to the inquest into a much-haired pop promoter's fall from his balcony. Gus's initially unsuspicious journalistic inquiries reawaken old passions and fuel new, homicidal ones. Tense, well-written, wickedly accurate on modern ad-world and Sixties foibles.

■ *Orchestrated Death*, by Cynthia Harrod-Eagles (Macdonald, £12.95). First appearance of Bill Snider, solid, gloomily married, mid-life-crisis-ridden inspector and his intellectual, food-con-scientious misfit Sergeant Thornton. Young jobbing violinist found

### CRIME

Marcel Berlins

### COYOTE



By Linda Barnes  
Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99

provide appropriate fodder for crime writers. Watson's fast-moving contribution cleverly brings together the Elgin Marbles, rediscovered Nazi art loot, and a (genuine) trip by the traitor Anthony Blunt. Edward Anderson, Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, presides over sharp political, emotional and artistic happenings.

■ *Dead Lock*, by Emma Page (Collins, £12.99). Depressive, recently wid 20-year-old cuts wrists in bath, leaving suitably distraught husband. Amiable Inspector Kelsey digs deeper into the couple, discovering each to have had a curious previous marriage ended by dubious deaths. Can Kelsey pin uxoricide on hubby? Neat, cunningly assembled net-tightener.

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under y macs

CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

# Shampooed and set for life

Geoff Brown on *The Hairdresser's Husband*, *Jules et Jim*, *Marked for Death*, *Grim Prairie Tales* and the re-issue of *Citizen Kane*

**P**atrice Leconte's *The Hairdresser's Husband* (15, at Camden Plaza, Metro, Gate and Chelsea) is perhaps the first film in history to suggest that getting your hair cut can be an erotic experience. Here come the hands, pummeling in the shampoo. Here come the scissors, snipping round the ears. It should all be absolute torture, yet the director, who leaped onto the international stage two years ago with *Monsieur Hire*, his mesmerising Simonon adaptation, makes haircutting seem almost an adjunct to love-making. As a boy, the film's hero, Antoine, delights in his plump lady hairdresser's tender touch, large breasts and body odour. His life's ambition is to marry a hairdresser. Advancing into middle-age, he fulfils his dream, spending the days in inscrutable bliss with Mathilde, the local hairdresser's young and go-while Antoine, seemingly jobless, fondles her passionately by the barber's chair, indulges his hobby of dancing to Arabic music, or sits quietly and smiles — a man borne aloft by his obsessions. Anybody who fell under the spell of the brooding and eccentric *Monsieur Hire* will find similar qualities here. Leconte, who admits to his own young passion for hairdressers, documents Antoine's yearnings with exquisite precision, allowing no extraneous detail to clutter the wide Panavision screen. The script is equally single-minded, leaving its adult characters scrubbed free of background: only their surging romantic impulses count as they sail through the days marooned in what Antoine calls their "stationary luxury liner". The bare-boned script places an extra onus on the performers, but the elegantly raffish Jean Rochefort and a gracious, smiling Italian actress, Anna Galiena, deliver the goods with ease. By the nature of its tale, *The Hairdresser's Husband* is a slight film, lacking the intensity that made *Monsieur Hire* so difficult to shake from the mind. But it is still a tender, funny, meticulously crafted celebration of human oddity and the power of love. One of the surprises at the Cannes festival this year was the continuing vigour of the French New Wave directors, who first stormed the city at the end of the Fifties. True, Claude Chabrol dragged his feet with a stodgy *Wild Reel*, but in *Jacquet de Nantes* and *La Belle Noiseuse*, Agnès Varda and Jacques Rivette gave us two of the festival's finest films. Another of their generation, François Truffaut, is back in town: not with a new film — he died, too young, in



Characters without background: Jean Rochefort and Anna Galiena in *The Hairdresser's Husband*

**A**rchive news footage, imaginatively deployed, vividly suggests the horrors of the first world war. The subsequent history of this *menage à trois* falls partial victim to the risky pace, though we conclude in the Nazi era, there is little sense of time passing, and little depth to the characters' sorrows as their relationships unravel. Yet so much of *Jules et Jim* radiates light and life: this is a fiery film, dancing undimmed down the decades. "Try to find a gentle self inside you," a priest advises the hero in *Marked for Death* (18, on general release). So what does this retired undercover chap from the Drug Enforcement Agency do? He goes on the rampage in Chicago and in the Caribbean, breaking bones with a fearsome crunch, decapitating villains, and spattering almost every Jamaican in sight. This unlovely affair is the latest vehicle for Steven Seagal — the martial arts instructor to the stars who through brute charisma and good connections has jumped into the top roster of action hunk. Seagal entirely lacks most of his compe-

titors' extravagantly sculpted forms. Viewed head on, with his slicked-back hair and pudgy hint of a face, he looks eerily like a burglar masked in a stocking. But the man can chop, kick and thrust a Samurai sword like a devil; he choreographed all the fight scenes, including a tiresome, protracted battle among a department store's scuttling customers and broken glass. Acting skills and a sense of humour remain, in Hollywood parlance, in development; though to be fair, Dwight Little's stunt-crazy direction offers little

*Leconte makes haircutting seem almost an adjunct to love-making*

room for any actor's grace notes. There is no subtlety, either, among the villains — eye-rolling "Kastafarians" with a taste for black magic. Lines are planted to inform us that these drug gangs form less than one per cent of the Jamaican population. In terms of what we see, the percentage feels nearer 99. American cinema shows a more benign face in Wayne Coe's *Grim* *Prairie Tales*, a fetching, intelligent low-budget venture receiving five scattered screenings at the National Film Theatre from Saturday until June 18. Two travellers across the prairie in the 1880s meet up one black night by a camp-fire. "Do you want to hear a story, city boy?" taunts James Earl Jones's mountainous, tobacco-spitting bounty hunter. City boy Brad Dourif — too nervous to sleep — listens to three disturbing tales of death, haunting and revenge, and contributes one himself. Each comes to life with its own separate cast. Viewed individually, these stories from the Western Twilight Zone make uneven entertainment. Yet this bizarre offspring of the Western and the horror film proves bigger than its parts. The barren landscape frequently looks stunning, and Coe — formerly a designer of Hollywood advertising campaigns — shows a gift for off-centre humour. "It's a story — you tell it, and there it is," Jones growls in aggravation after Dourif starts probing for deeper meanings. The intellectual

TELEVISION REVIEW

## Doughty but defective as an eco-detective

**Y**oking together Raymond Chandler's stories and BBC nature programmes in the same mental furrow requires a rather athletic stretch of the imagination. "Down these mean streets a man must go who is not himself mean, who is neither tarnished nor afraid, and who enjoys watching the furry animals on *Wildlife on One*." It is not promising. However, the makers of *The Global Detective* (BBC 1) clearly perceive some merit in attaching a hard-boiled wiseguy narration to an investigation of an ecological crime; and last night Bill Paterson took us through South America's illegal trade in alligator skins, with such lines as "In Brazil, you get two to five for killing a croc."

Perhaps the laconic persona is simply a device to subvert the more conventional journalist-as-hero, to cover the modesty of the director (Luke Holland), who took real personal risks in confronting lynch-happy dealers in Paraguay. The effect, though, is to render the story less dramatic, and to lend it an unhelpful hint of phoney.

The story does have its Chanderlesque connotations, I suppose. When it comes to the alligator-skin trade, for example, it is emphatically the little guy who takes the fall. The ones who get their hands bloody are the Paraguayan indians, surreptitiously stooping in the heads of alligators all night long, and flaying the still-twitching corpses on the banks of a Brazilian swamp. A million animals, apparently, are killed in this manner every year: which amounts to a lot of hammering and ripping, a lot of blood to be bled out of the boat. But the humble Indian does not get rich; more likely, he gets shot. As Chandler once pointed out, "When in doubt have a man come through the door with a gun in his hand."

Red-handed poachers are

**T**he "global detective" was not impressed by this character; but allowed he was only a middle man in a vast scheme of high-level corruption. It was in the naming of the guilty men, in fact, that the programme's "detective-story" gloss seemed most inappropriate, since in detective-story terms, revelations of a network of shady deals are not a patch on the nailing of the flint-hearted blonde who pulled the trigger. So, even though he had established so much of the story, the "global detective" was obliged to leave the Case of the Alligator Skins essentially unsolved, and collect his 25 dollars a day (plus expenses) while the corpses continued to pile up unabated.

LYNNE TRUSS

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RECORDS: JAZZ

## Folky standards are alive

Barbara Thompson: Songs From the Center of the Earth (Black Sun 15014-2)  
Michael O'Suilleabhain: Cassidy/Turning (Venture CDVE 904)  
Tommy Smith: Standards (Blue Note CDP 7984522)



**H**AVING passed the age of 40, Barbara Thompson is automatically disqualified from receiving serious attention as a saxophonist. That received wisdom, happily, has not prevented her from continuing to produce work of genuine originality. Apart from the commercial success of her long-running jazz-rock group Paraphernalia, her most interesting projects have tended to mix jazz with traditional music from East and West. Songs from the Center of the Earth continues the process, though in a more stark setting of a medieval abbey in Provence. Folk songs provide the core of the improvisations, and Thompson has rummaged through Irish ballads, Syrian love songs and Caribbean spirituals. Playing unaccompanied, she re-shapes the themes in long, meditative

Barbara Thompson: genuine solos. The mournful tempo suits some of the songs better than others, and the playing time of almost an hour is over-generous. But Thompson's use of tenor, alto and soprano saxophones creates a gently evolving pattern of autumnal shades. Is it jazz? Perhaps not, but the question no longer needs to be asked now that the art has taken on an international identity. Michael O'Suilleabhain encroaches on similar terrain with his nimble transcriptions of traditional Irish melodies. An ethnomusicologist and senior lecturer in music at

University College, Cork, O'Suilleabhain brings academic authority to the arrangements for strings, woodwind and percussion without sacrificing the inherent joy and humour of the originals. Any jazz buff deterred by the occasional sound of a harpsichord can always bear in mind that Artie Shaw used the instrument to good effect half a century ago with the Gramercy Five.

Hailed as a new saxophone prodigy when he was still in his mid-teens, Tommy Smith has been suffering from a backlash within the jazz community. His self-confident, sometimes prickly stage manner has been partly to blame, but the main reason is surely that expectations were running far too high. Standards is a self-explanatory title. Smith is testing himself against compositions which have been covered hundreds of times by the very best musicians. No wonder, then, that he is fighting a losing battle. One good point, however, is that the format tends to curb his more self-indulgent tendencies.

CLIVE DAVIS

## Hope springs

**A**FTER threatening to shut itself down at the end of this month, London City Ballet has now decided to continue operating in the hope that it will be taken on as an Arts Council client next year. The board of trustees says it issued the about-face on the strength of assurances from the Arts Council and Tim Renton, the arts minister, that the council will "use its best endeavours

BRIEFING

to find a way of securing the company's future". An Arts Council spokesman confirms that if additional funding becomes available from 1992-1993, "the dance panel will consider positively the needs of London City Ballet in relation to its policy for dance development."

### Last chance...

**O**N SATURDAY, *Re-Joyce!* ends its run at the Vaudeville Theatre (071-836 9987). With

such phrases as "George... don't do that," Joyce Grenfell brought home the comic awfulness of a gentlewoman's life, in this case a kindergarten teacher in charge of some persistently trying tots. Maureen Lipman's portrayal of the much-loved entertainer has twice been revived for further seasons, but this time the final performances are said to be truly final.

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## Pickles' case for the joint

Mary Ann Sieghart

In a Britain each year, one drug is implicated in 45 per cent of violent crimes, more than 22,000 injuries and deaths from road accidents and over 12,000 deaths from related illnesses. Dependence on it can wreck families and put people's jobs at risk. So why do we tolerate alcohol? Habit.

Alcohol dominates the social lives of our middle-aged lawmakers. In moderation, it is relatively harmless. In excess, it can be a menace. Cannabis plays a smaller, but still significant part in the social lives of their children's generation. Moderate use is less harmful than alcohol. Excessive use can cause psychological dependence but is more likely to lead to lethargy than aggression — unlike alcohol. Cannabis does not kill.

This generational gulf has, until recently, made argument about legalisation resistant to reason. The middle-aged hate to admit that they too take drugs (often, caffeine, nicotine and sleeping pills as well as alcohol). They see other people's drugs as a "menace". Those who would rather smoke a joint than drink whisky are deemed criminals because they choose to relax in a different way. Politicians of all parties have rallied round their own drug and spouted humbug about other people's.

Now there is a whiff of change. What a relief to find not just *The Economist*, *The Times* and President Carter's former drug tsar arguing for decriminalisation, but Judge Pickles, that arch-populist, too. On television last night, he reiterated his call for the legalisation of cannabis, a case he will make at greater length in his own BBC documentary next Tuesday. With Judge Pickles on side, how much longer will politicians be able to claim that public opinion would not stand any loosening of the drug laws?

They will doubtless continue to use scare tactics. They will say that cannabis leads to harder drugs: today a pot smoker, tomorrow a crack addict. While it is true that most hard drug users smoke cannabis too, they also tend to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes and make endless cups of tea. Most cannabis users do not take other illegal drugs. If anything leads to escalation, it is that cannabis smokers have to delve into a criminal underworld to buy their pot. The dealer is likely to offer them harder drugs, sometimes as a gift. If they could buy cannabis in an off-licence, they would not have access to cocaine, crack or heroin.

Or is there any danger of an explosion in drug use. Cannabis is available in 250 coffee houses in Holland, where possession is now legal. Yet a recent survey showed that just 1.8 per cent of Dutch 18-year-olds had used drugs in the previous month. Anyway, if legalisation led to some people smoking cannabis instead of drinking alcohol, it could only benefit society. Etched on my memory is a cartoon: in the first frame, a drunken brawl in a pub, with furniture flying and fists flailing; in the second, a group of cannabis smokers sitting peacefully at home with beaming smiles on their faces. Policemen are beating down their door.

In 1989, there were 35,635 convictions or cautions for drug offences in Britain, over 80 per cent related to cannabis. The police keep calling for more men. Delays in the courts are disgraceful. Think how much time could be spared for serious crime if both were relieved of this burden. And imagine how much the Treasury could raise in excise duty. Legalisation of cannabis would curb public spending and increase revenue. What taxpayer could resist the idea of that money being spent on hospitals and schools instead of lining the pockets of criminal gangs? The case rests.

Lord Alexander, one of the bankers summoned by the Chancellor yesterday, defends their record

## We're not to blame when firms go bust

In recent days the banks have been accused of being responsible for many of the difficulties currently confronting small businesses. How true is this?

Regular surveys by the Small Business Research Trust, an independent organisation, have shown that low turnover and lack of business have overtaken interest rates as the prime concern of small businesses. In addition, delayed payment by large customers to smaller firms has harmed cash flow. This problem is perpetuated by the lack of any statutory right to interest for such delay.

NatWest is the leading small business bank with more than a million small business customers. We currently lend almost £10 billion to such clients. We have increased lending by almost 20 per cent during the last year, much of it to support businesses which we are seeking to help during troubled times. With such heavy commitment, we want to see them succeed.

Our average margin over base rate before costs is slightly more than 3 per cent. It has barely increased since the beginning of 1989,

even though this area of business has grown much riskier.

I have seen no sign whatever of a banking cartel in any area since I came to NatWest. Deregulation at the beginning of the last decade prompted strong competition between banks. The four major clearing banks may have 85 per cent of the small business market, but there is nothing to stop other lending institutions entering the arena if they are prepared to support the national economy in this way and to take the risks.

Sometimes it is suggested that we are seeking to charge small businesses to make up for bank losses in lending to Third World countries. So far as NatWest is concerned, this is simply not the case. We, like banks all over the world, loaned money to the Third World, with government encouragement, but we made proper provision for it in past years, and it is no longer a factor affecting our business strategy.

What is our policy towards increases in margins? Only half of our million small business customers borrow at all. One third of our small business lending is for fixed terms at fixed rates. It is the other two thirds of lending, at



Dissatisfied small businessmen can always complain

variable rates, that is affected by changes in the base rate. When the base rate goes down, our own rates go down automatically at the touch of a computer key.

In recent months, however, small business lending has increasingly become a high risk area of business. Bad debt levels were high last year and will remain so. Inevitably, therefore, we have sought some increases in margins, generally of up to 0.5 per

cent, where lending arrangements have been revised, or renewed. Individual managers are given some discretion to take into account special circumstances. On a loan of £15,000, an increase of 0.5 per cent is £75 per year. While this is not a negligible sum, it is unlikely to make or break a small business with problems that flow from the general economic situation.

Another frequent complaint is

that banks are not sensitive to the need of their small business customers. Generally speaking, this cannot be true. Small firms are still springing up in every corner of the country and, moreover, in every line of business. This year, more than 200,000 small businesses will start up with NatWest alone; they come to us because we provide the service they need.

Our managers are asked to deal sensitively with customers, whenever possible face to face, and are given discretion to have some regard to the position of their customers. Obviously it is likely that in some cases we fail to live up to this standard, and this may cause legitimate grievances. But it is also likely that some grievances are not legitimate, reflecting rather the frustrations of small businesses who were encouraged to open businesses by the financial climate of the last years of the 1980s and have seen their expectations dashed by the recession.

We are seeking still to develop further what we call "relationship banking", and both we and our customers have more to learn in this area. When any of our

customers feel we have failed them, they can complain — we have leaflets on how to do in every branch — and their complaints are fully explored. We are determined to be relentless in our drive for quality, although like every other organisation, we shall never be infallible.

We remain determined to continue our support for small businesses and in doing so to support the national economy. Our lending is not, as in some Continental countries, buttressed by government guarantees. We can only continue to serve the economy if we can make our own assessment of risk and run our bank as a commercial venture.

We, like our customers, look forward to the end of the recession, but in the meantime we will strive to support them through these difficult times wherever we can responsibly do so.

Lord Alexander of Woodon, a former chairman of the Bar Council (1985-86) and of the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers (1987-89), has been chairman of the National Westminster Bank since 1989.

## The ultimate unauthorised life

Christ's reputation may yet survive

A.N. Wilson's condescending biography, suggests Bernard Levin

Mr A.N. Wilson, the well-known person, has recently written a biography of Jesus Christ, to be published next year, and he has kindly been giving a preview of his findings — or perhaps it should be tidings — to the world. Presumably to allay the qualms that the news must have aroused, he has come out with a ringing endorsement of his subject: "I am sure", he says, "I would like Jesus."

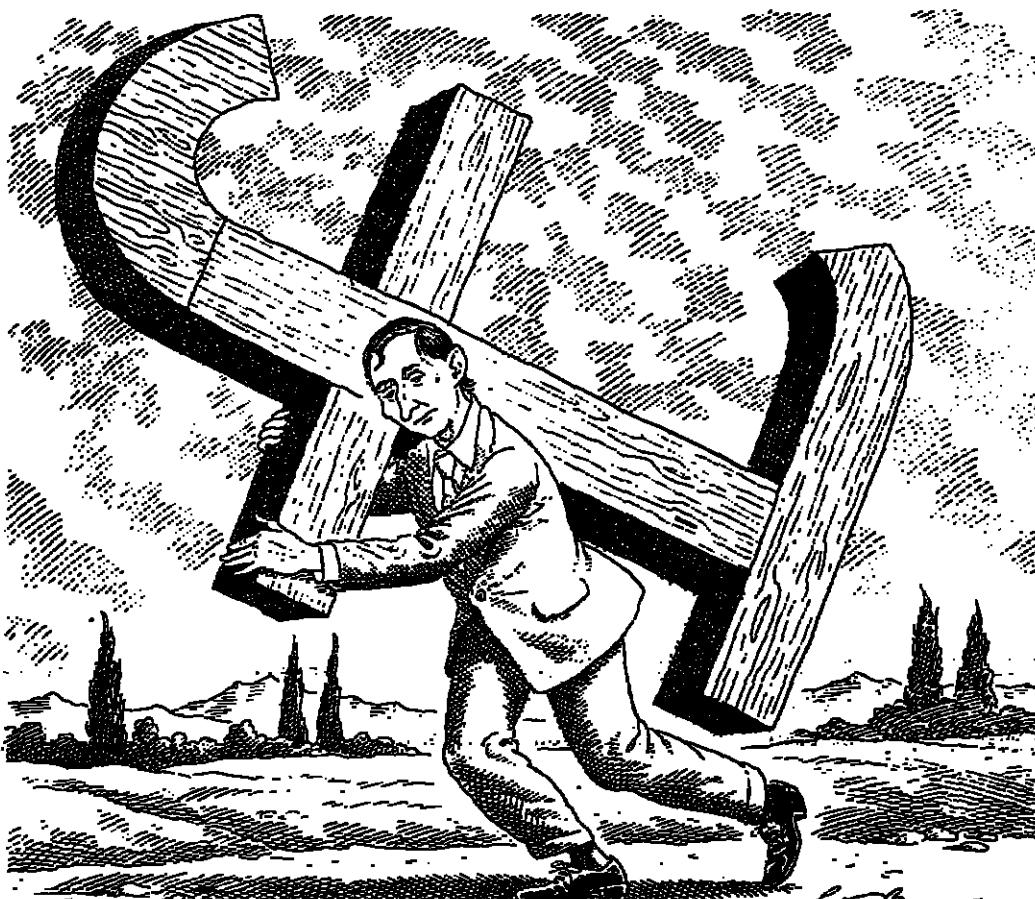
Now that, you will allow, should stand your man in pretty good stead, I mean, being crucified must be a really rotten business, but to know that you have the A.N. Wilson seal of approval would go far in the way of making the nails less painful. He has much more to say about Jesus, and I have much more to say about him, but I must first get one pressing matter out of the way. Mr A.N. Wilson is sure that he would like Jesus, but what I want to know, and I suppose most of you want to know also, is: would Jesus like Mr Wilson?

The omens are not good. First, there is no specific statement anywhere in the words of Jesus indicating a liking for our author. Negative evidence, you will say; well, perhaps, but you can build a formidable case on it. Take, for instance, the best known roster of Jesus's friends; he went out of his way to count the circle of his really close buddies — the poor in spirit, they that mourn, the meek (well, there's damn little meek about Mr Wilson), they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers and they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake (catch Mr

Wilson allowing himself to be persecuted for anybody's sake, starting with his own). A pretty eclectic bunch, it is clear, and a pretty big bunch, too; he must have had a massive Christmas-card list, but not a word about "blessed be the biographers".

Nor can it be that Jesus thought biography too vulgar a trade (a tabloid journalist, perhaps, but not a man whose books are published by Chatto & Windus); his closest mates included several fishermen and a tax-collector (well, he was a carpenter himself, remember) and a lot more riff-raff of the kind. Yet he was not above entertaining the lot of them at supper; you will remember that when he and his pals turned up at a wedding reception — the easiest kind of junket to gatecrash — and he turned the water into wine, it was all over the front page of the *Cana News*, and there was no mention of Mr Wilson, not even in the "and many others, including..." bit at the end of the guest list.

Never mind; if Mr Wilson is feeling a bit miffed about his cordiality being spurned, I have good news for him; your man is famous for liking practically everybody, including publicans and sinners, and somewhere in his heart there is a corner for Mr Wilson, I am sure. Indeed, I can recall only two occasions on which he really expressed dislike; the first was when he got his dander up and for some reason went round the West End throwing the staffs of the Bureau de Change out of their kiosks (even the *American Express* in the Haymarket), and the other was when he was talking about child abuse, and said anyone practising it would be better off tying all Mr



Wilson's books round his neck and jumping off Brighton pier.

But Mr Wilson has more important fish to fry (and leaves to bake, I imagine). He makes it clear that his biography will be very wide-ranging; for instance, he wants to know what hobbies Jesus had, whether he got married and whether, if he did, he had children.

The hobbies question has him stumped; presumably he can find no evidence. Well, I can help him here. I know for a fact that Jesus was a real Scrabble expert; moreover, he was a whiz at pet-pet-pet, and for good measure he collected matchbox-labels. Mr Wilson is hardly more confident on the

marriage and family question; he says no more than "probably". Again, I can fill in; Jesus was indeed married, and had two children, a girl called Tracy and a boy, Kevin.

There is more to come; Jesus, for instance, was born not in Bethlehem, as has hitherto been supposed, but Nazareth; Luke made up "...a straight fib..." the bit about Pontius Pilate washing his hands; Mr Wilson tells us that he "dislikes Luke's gospel very, very much", which should settle Luke's hash for good. Moreover, Jesus was crucified by the Romans because they thought he was politically dangerous, which I can confirm —

there was a vital by-election going on, and Jesus was on the stump night and day, campaigning for Paddy Ashdown. And finally — this'll make you gasp for the daring of the man Wilson — he declares that Jesus was not born of a virgin, was not the Son of God, and did not rise from the dead.

I suppose that by now I have offended practically everybody, though I set out only to offend Mr Wilson. For the fourteen thousandth time, I am not a Christian, partly because I do not think myself worthy to be one; but it is really beyond patience for a man who loves very profoundly the person, words and message of Christ, and among that loving

finds Mr Wilson arsing about and squeaking, the squeaks being composed of the same tired old arguments, deployed in a quality not quite as high as that of the schoolboy who tries to embarrass teacher by drawing attention to Isaiah 36, verse 12, or who explains to his friends while they are playing conkers that his dad says that it was impossible for Sarah to leave a baby under a gooseberry-bush at the age of 90, though dad wouldn't explain exactly why.

Come; let us suppose that Christ was born neither in Bethlehem, as the Christians believe, nor in Nazareth, as Mr Wilson believes, but in Tunbridge Wells. Suppose, even, that Mr Wilson, rather than the Christian religion, is right about virgin births and resurrection: will those tremendous metaphors — is there anything in all history to touch them? — wither and die? Is not the nature of Christ, in the words of the New Testament, enough to pierce to the soul anyone with a soul to be pierced?

Mr Wilson will no doubt assure us that there is no such thing as a soul; after all, he has recently made plain, in a pamphlet, that all religion is bogus and should be ignored. I suppose the pamphlet was a herald of the forthcoming book, which will knock down Christianity and bury it. Well, its founder was very thoroughly knocked down and ever so buried, and whether he rose from the grave or whether he was playing possum, he still looms over the world, his message still clear, his pity still infinite, his consolation still effective, his words still full of glory, wisdom and love.

Mr Wilson says that he has not yet decided on the title of his book. Perhaps I may suggest "Gawd 'elp us", or possibly "Christ Almighty". Or better still: "How I Set Out to Demolish the Christian Religion, and Succeeded only in Making a Right Nana of Myself".

...and moreover

## CRAIG BROWN

Every week I see yet another interview with Marco Pierre White, the rude London restaurateur. These interviews follow the same pattern: the more abusive White pours on his staff ("You're a fucking disaster! What are you? A fucking disaster!"), the more convinced the interviewer becomes of his genius.

The British have long been fools for abuse, particularly if they have to dish out good money for it. I was once commissioned by a magazine to spend 24 hours in the company of Peter Langan. In his time, Langan was the most famous swearing restaurateur of them all. If customers complained, he was as likely to throw them out as to apologise. He would regularly empty bottles over their heads, or terrify them with lewd suggestions.

Someone once said to me that Langan's was the only restaurant where he wished there was a sign on the door saying "Le propriétaire ne mange pas ici". But spending my 24 hours in his secretly rather amiable company, I came to realise how much his clientele — consisting less of celebrities than of people up from the country hoping to spot celebrities — yearned to have him lurch up to them with a few choice insults, so that they could boast of being pilloried by the great Langan himself when they got home. Perhaps this desire for humiliation at the hands of a restaurateur has something to do with the Protestant guilt that engulfs

so many British souls when they eat out. A proprietor who behaves like an avenging angel, hurling thunder-flashes of abuse is, for them, the perfect end to a delicious meal.

Last year saw the death of Kim de la Taste Tickell, who ran the Tickell Arms, a cult figure among Cambridge students. Tickell had a notice on his front door barring anyone with jeans, braces, overalls, CND badges or other "left-wing insignia". He also loathed smokers, hurling himself at offenders with a soda siphon and squirting them from head to foot. On one occasion, he was brought to court for thrashing his family sword at a group of customers and shouting, "I'm not having any South London garage proprietors and their tarts in here!"

If any scruff asked for a loo, Tickell would declare, "Turn left at the end of the corridor. There you will see a sign saying 'Gentlemen'. Ignore it, and walk straight in." Needless to say, people flocked from far and wide to savour such abuse.

Tickell may have based his act on John Fothergill, owner in the Twenties and Thirties of the Spreadeagle at Thame. So snobbish that he once described the Spanish royal family, who arrived one day, as "a pretty girl and her husband, with three gentlemen who looked like butlers discharged for taking liberties". Fothergill discouraged the hot polloi, once vociferously refusing to serve a charabanc of "great burly, black, broad clothed brutes" from the East End. When an undergraduate

said "I'll never come here again", Fothergill replied: "Yes, but will you give me another undertaking to tell all your friends not to come?"

Robert Ross described Fothergill as the worst-mannered man in London, a title which is today claimed by Norman Balon, the proprietor of Soho's Coach and Horses, who prints on his matchboxes the legend, "London's Rudest Landlord". He has recently become so famous for his rudeness that he appeared on *The Wogan Show*. In his autobiography, *You're Banned, You Bastard!*, he admits to having once barred his own mother from his pub "for talking too much". On the only occasion that I encountered him, Mr Balon seemed full of smiles, but perhaps he was having an off day.

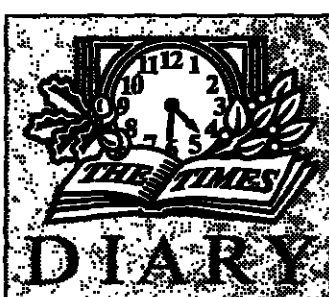
Personally, I like a quiet life, and the prospect of paying a fortune for Marco Pierre White's limited range of insults does not appeal. I think I will stick with Basil Fawlty, who, you will remember, once gathered his guests together to scream at them, "You ponce in here expecting to be waited on hand and foot, well I'm trying to run a hotel here. Have you any idea of how much there is to do? Of course not, you're all too busy sticking your noses into every corner, poking around for things to complain about... A lot of layabouts with nothing better to do than cause trouble." Quite apart from his greater wit, to my mind Fawlty has one overwhelming advantage over Marco Pierre White: he is not real.

## Selectively quoted again

Still poignantly coming to terms with her fall, Margaret Thatcher has been dealt another blow by the Conservative party. The Thatcher era has been marginalised in the party's general election campaign guide, which is regarded as its bible.

Mrs Thatcher is referred to only ten times in the 750-page tome, the most up-to-date reference book of Tory policy and achievements. In the 1987 election guide, she is referred to 37 times, John Major only twice. In the last guide, published in February 1989, she is mentioned 33 times. The guide's editor Alistair Cooke, who is deputy director of the party's research department, says: "This guide seeks to convey clearly the measure of the Conservative achievement over the whole of the last 12 years." But Mrs Thatcher dominated that political era, and her demotion by the party organ is seen by her supporters as a deliberate decision to denigrate her.

Significantly, Mrs Thatcher's vision of Europe is referred to only once, in an extract from her Bruges speech, which even the most pro-European Tory could not object to. "I want to see us work more closely together on the things we can do better together than alone. Europe is stronger when we do so, whether it be in trade, in defence or in our relations with the rest of the world." Conspicuous by its absence is a passage from the same speech used in the previous edition, when she was prime minister: "Working more closely together does not require power to be concentrated in Brussels or decisions to be taken by an appointed bureaucracy... We have not successfully rolled back the frontiers of the state in Britain only to see them reimposed at a European level."



John Major and Margaret Thatcher are rarely seen together at social gatherings these days, but they will forget their differences next month at Jeffrey and Mary Archer's silver wedding anniversary party. Cecil Parkinson, Sir Bernard Ingham and members of the cabinet will also attend. But nobody expects Major and Thatcher to sit together. One of the guests says: "Jeffrey is just about the only one left who enjoys the full confidence and friendship of both the PM and Mrs Thatcher."

## Barring accidents

Maxy Filer, dubbed the world's worst law student, will achieve his life's ambition today when he is sworn in to the Californian bar. Filer, aged 60, passed the bar examination on his fifth attempt.

He first tried to pass the California bar exam back in 1966, the year England won the world cup and the Beatles released *Revolver*. Since then, Filer, from Compton, near San Francisco, has sat the exam twice a year, spending more than £40,000 in exam and tuition fees. "It's wonderful to have passed," he says. "I had to read the letter five times before I believed it." But the failures have not always been his fault. During his 48th attempt, the exam was interrupted by an earthquake. "We found we were at the epicentre, so it was wise to leave," he says. "I'm sure I would have passed that one."

## Swanning around

An inner London wildlife park has been forced to evict two of its prize residents because they have become too wild. Staff at Camley Street Natural Park, two acres of inner city parkland near King's Cross, featuring woodland, a pond and meadow, had to take action when a swan attacked schoolchildren who invaded its territory. The fully-grown mute and its mate, the first swans to settle in the park since it opened six years ago, have now been excluded.

"Male swans are very possessive, and he declared the pond and pathway his territory. He became



a real problem," says Irene Lucas, a teacher at the park. "Whenever children crossed the bridge over the pond, he tried to peck them and chase them away by flapping his wings. We have built a fence to confine the pair to the bank of the Regent's Canal just outside the park." Visitors to the park can still view the nest where Mrs Swan is currently hatching three eggs. "We expect the cygnets to appear next week," Miss Lucas says.

## Black mark

Nicholas Mosley's biography of his father, Sir Oswald Mosley, has caused a rift with his stepmother, Lady Mosley, the former Diana Mordaunt. Lady Mosley, who was Sir

Oswald's second wife, is deeply unhappy with *Rules of the Game: Beyond the Pale*, which appears this month in America. "It is a vulgar exercise which published things too private to be made public, particularly by such a close relation," she says.

Nicholas says Lady Mosley objected to his publication of letters — many written in baby-talk, using affectionate names — between his father and his mother, Cynthia Curzon, who was Sir Oswald's first wife. Nicholas says: "I thought the letters showed my father in an exuberant, buxantaneous light, almost as boyish, rather than as a fascist, which is how people think of him. But my stepmother feels a great loyalty to my father, and his ideas, which meant showing him in a positive light."

Lady Mosley allowed Nicholas to see Sir Oswald's papers after he was reconciled with his father just before his death in 1980. In an interview in *Publishers Weekly*, Nicholas says Lady Mosley helped him by telling him of his father's love affairs and even letting him see Sir Oswald's letters to his first wife. When she saw the draft of the book she was enthusiastic. But, says Nicholas, "Five days later she wrote again, saying the book was awful, wrong — I must have hated my father — and she was going to try to stop it." She insisted that he include a line to show her disapproval. "That was very fair," Mosley says. "But sadly, she and I are not speaking."

As the First Test starts today, the West Indians have two excuses for their lack of early season form. "The boys are having to put up with both the cold conditions and the soft beds we get at the hotels," complains Dennis Waigh, the team physiotherapist trying to nurse opening batsmen Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes back to fitness. And to think that in cricketing circles it is always the poms who are said to whine.





## SCAPEGOATING THE BANKS

Bankers are greedy, insensitive and short-sighted. Small businesses are the foundation of economic prosperity. Both of these propositions have been broadly sustainable since the beginnings of economic society. For the prime minister, John Major, they have suddenly coalesced into a blinding insight. If high interest rates are driving thousands of small firms out of business, as they undoubtedly are, then perhaps the fault lies not in his government's high interest rate policy but in the aforementioned greed, insensitivity and short-sightedness of banks.

The argument is politically appealing, not only because it helps to spread the blame for the recession, but also because of the public's instinctive hostility to banks. None the less Mr Major is going to have difficulties making his case stick. The banks may be greedy, insensitive and short-sighted but what would Mr Major, his Chancellor and, as of yesterday the regulators of Brussels, expect them to be instead?

A central tenet of Mrs Thatcher's philosophical revolution was that private commercial enterprises should devote themselves to maximising profit and answer only to their shareholders, whether in the short or long term. The invisible hand of competition would ensure that such businesses ultimately served the common good.

Competition in the banking market remains inadequate, and anything the government can do to promote it is welcome. But competition alone might not solve the banking problems of small firms. The financial market was substantially deregulated in the 1980s, to include hundreds of fringe banks, building societies and foreign lenders. The fact that the new competitors have been uninterested in small business customers suggests that profits are plying in lending to small businesses, even at current interest rates.

Small businessmen have complained that banks tar them all with the same brush, instead of taking the time to study their individual finances. But the average small business loan generates no more than a few hundred pounds a year in profits - not

enough to justify the investment of time and resources required by a truly personal approach to small firms. The more intense the competition in any market, the more implacable such arithmetic becomes. Comparable calculations explain the proliferation of new charges for personal accounts and the apparent impatience or hostility of bank managers towards clients with complex requests or complaints.

The harsh reality of the market is that some of the services that small customers used to take for granted are becoming more expensive not because of the failure of competition, but because of its success. Not for nothing are customers now able to demand interest on their current accounts.

For Mr Major, the implications of this analysis may be unsettling. Unless his Treasury sleuths can show that banks have been colluding to raise their margins, their enquiry is likely to come up with banalities. Small businesses suffer because of their size in dealing with banks. Just as manufacturers give discounts to big firms for bulk buying, so banks offer their biggest customers the best rates.

If this consequence of free markets is unacceptable for political or social reasons, then the government must consider intervening. In many countries, including America under President Reagan, government agencies have been created to guarantee small business credit and help level the playing field between big and small firms. In Britain, the only scheme was started in 1981 to help redundant workers open their own businesses, and it is confined to cases where "conventional loans are not available".

Should the British government subsidise small businesses and thereby interfere with the workings of the free market? Perhaps in the present climate it should. The present fracas is having a salutary effect in publicising the prices and practices of the financial sector towards borrowers. Governments may have an informational role in helping free markets. But a crude hunt for scapegoats in the run-up to an election is not the way to start.

## WINNING THE PEACE

There is a massive irony in the timing of President Gorbachev's visit to Oslo to accept his award of the Nobel peace prize. On the eve of his departure, the Soviet prosecutor's office exonerated the Soviet troops who stormed the Lithuanian television centre in January, killing 13 unarmed people. As if to reinforce the message, Soviet patrols again began harassing citizens in the streets of the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius.

Nothing punctured the West's indulgence of President Gorbachev as rapidly as his clumsy handling of the January Vilnius outrage. Why should he allow another scrap with Lithuanian nationalists to sour the atmosphere for an award that is of enormous symbolic importance, to him personally and to his standing at home and abroad?

The incident must mean one of two things. Either President Gorbachev's enemies among the conservatives and hardline military commanders are powerful enough to act on their own authority, cynically calculating the embarrassment they are causing him; or Mr Gorbachev himself has subtly authorised another crack-down in the hope that he can distance himself from it - as before - and use the incident to warn the West that his reform course is still in jeopardy and needs huge injections of cash to thwart the diehards.

However Machiavellian a politician the Soviet leader may be, the second interpretation seems unlikely. The evidence is growing that after six months of dithering, Mr Gorbachev has now thrown in his lot with the reformers. He has committed himself to the radical economic programme from which he has long shied away. He is ready to oppose the army in order to observe both the spirit and the letter of the treaty on conventional forces in Europe. In Oslo yesterday he swallowed what is left of superpower pride and admitted that his huge

disintegrating country is unable to reach the goal of democracy and a better standard of living without Western cash, know-how, enterprise and investment. The Soviet Union is an international beggar.

All this must alarm the old guard, which may have thought his tactical retreat could be used to halt both economic reform and moves to a looser Soviet federation. Mr Gorbachev's readiness now to drop the hallowed word "socialist" from the country's name was a clear sign that they can rely on him no longer. Another ugly conflict in Lithuania might sabotage the bridges he has painstakingly rebuilt with Washington and the West. President Landsbergis of Lithuania could be counted on to react with an emotional appeal to halt Western aid.

The implication is worrying. It seems Mr Gorbachev is not fully in command of his country nor of his generals. Urging him to rein in the hardliners is futile: he cannot, even if he so wants. Western leaders, after a wrangle about the form of their invitation to the economic summit, will soon be sitting down with him across the table in London. They must make plain their disgust at the bullying of Lithuania or other "sovereign" republics. They must seek assurance that the Soviet leader can pursue the promised reforms. And at least until he starts to deliver they should resist his cry for aid.

But the West would do well to show the same understanding for the Soviet leader's plight that President Bush recently conveyed to Mr Gorbachev's envoys. The Soviet leader deserved to win his Nobel prize. Without his courage, eastern Europe would probably still be in chains. The threats to Lithuania show that freeing the Soviet empire is proving a far harder exercise. But at least Mr Gorbachev appears still to be willing to try.

## WIND OF CHANGE

Short-term weather forecasting is getting more accurate, the vagaries of the British weather less vague. The consumer's magazine *Which?* has discovered that BBC's daily forecasts for the whole country, supplied by the Meteorological Office, improved markedly over the 1980s. Correct prediction rose from 77 to 83 per cent for wind and from 83 to 87 per cent for maximum temperature. Would that Derby tipsters - or Treasury ministers - were as reliable!

The improvement represents an engaging next phase in the evolution of weather forecasting. The primitives based their forecasts on whether shepherds were delighting at red skies, cows standing or lying, seaweed wet or dry. By the 1920s, science promised to render such techniques obsolete. Bergeron Bjerknes of the Bergen meteorological office launched modern weather forecasting with his theory of weather frontal systems. In the 1950s, John von Neumann mesmerised meteorologists with the first theories of computerised forecasting. From then on larger computers were expected to make the weather as predictable as a clock.

The computers duly grew, the programmes became more sophisticated, the calculations more abstruse in what became a multi-million pound industry. Then the Frankenstein of science started to destroy what it had created. "Chaos theory" was discovered. Edward Lorenz, king of the weather computer, found that his computer

models of the atmosphere had mathematical properties which magnified trivial changes in a way that made them unstable. A thunderstorm could have its origins in the unpredictable flutterings of a butterfly's wings. Prediction was impossible; the only certainty was uncertainty.

In Britain chaos theory was slow to catch on, until a couple of freak and unforecasted hurricanes in the 1980s undermined such confidence as there was in Michael Fish and his fellow television forecasters. Meteorologists are indeed getting better at their job. Enormous computing power does help, chaos theory notwithstanding.

Is this revival of rationalism catching on? In the 1960s, pseudo-certainties were the rage in fields as diverse as education, astronomy and economic policy. In the seventies that faith was eroded, to collapse altogether in the 1980s by chaos theories that denied statistical forecasting and planning and put its faith in the fluttering wings of the entrepreneur in the free market, and in Adam Smith's "unseen hand".

To the spirit of the age, markets left free to their own devices made predicting the future unnecessary as well as impossible. Among economists of the 1990s, however, a modest role for "weather forecasting" and thus for pre-planning appears to be reasserting itself though the notorious "Treasury model" of the economy seems to be stuck in optimistic mode however chill the wind. That may be better than forecasting chaos - though no guarantee against it.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Hard times for banks' customers

From Mr George Flint

Sir, So there it is, with shameless candour: "The good businesses pay for the failed ones. There is no other way of running a bank" (report, May 27).

When times are hard for a business, bankers' advice is to cut salaries and to declare staff redundant; they will insist that personal guarantees be given to raise more money from shareholders; for this unsolicited advice, they will, of course, demand a fee.

There appears to be a different set of rules for the banks: give yourself a pay rise and screw your customers for the money. Good companies must pay for the bad investment decisions of the banks.

If we are to pay, it would have been appropriate if the banks had asked for advice before placing ever larger amounts of their shareholders' funds at risk. The advice might well have been for them to invest in Britain instead of bankrupt dictatorships, and in manufacturing industry instead of highly-leveraged buy-outs and the like.

The banks in their desire to pass the buck and the bill display the culture of the former nationalised industries of more than a decade ago. Where have they been all these years?

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE FLINT,  
Pigeon's Farm,  
Greenham, Berkshire.  
May 28.

From Mr I. H. Leslie Melville

Sir, The Conservative party is concerned over clearing banks overcharging smaller businesses. As I understand it, as the government reduces interest rates, the banks increase their margins. Because smaller businesses have become illiquid as a result of the recession presided over by the government, they are unable, in many cases, to change their banking arrangements as they are currently unattractive banking propositions. They therefore have no choice other than to pay.

Is this not simply an example of free-market conservatism working beautifully?

Yours faithfully,  
HAMISH LESLIE MELVILLE,  
19 Carlyle Mansions,  
Cheyne Walk, SW3.  
June 4.

From Mr G. B. Miller

Sir, How appropriate your editorial, "Defying gravity" (May 27), turns out to be. I have today received a printed form from the National Westminster Bank advising that, with effect from June 10, 1991, the rates for overdrafts will be 24.5 per cent effective annual rate for agreed overdrafts and 37.6 per cent for unauthorised borrowings.

I have never had, nor do I need, an overdraft, but I think the rates the National Westminster Bank are proposing are disgraceful. How right you are to draw attention to the

rapacious interest the banks are charging those who have no alternative but to borrow.

Yours faithfully,  
G. B. MILLER,  
68 Adisham Green,  
Church Milton,  
Sittingbourne, Kent.  
May 28.

From Mr Peter L. Marsh

Sir, I read with interest (report, May 27) that the CBI is investigating why small companies are not benefiting from the lower interest rates.

We have had a very good relationship with our bank for the last ten years and have recently been borrowing at 2.25 per cent over base (at present an annual rate of 13.75 per cent) until the beginning of May, when they stated that we would have to go on a fixed 1.35 per cent a month (making an annual rate of 17.4 per cent) and that as a special rate.

Since then I read that the same bank is offering certain students overdrafts at 1.2 per cent a month (an annual rate of 15.3 per cent). It seems that being loyal has its disadvantages - luckily we have an extremely small overdraft.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER L. MARSH,  
Wind in the Willows Hotel,  
Derbyshire Level,  
Glossop, Derbyshire.  
May 30.

From Mr Anthony Warrington

Sir, I find it curious that it has taken so long to wake up to the fact that the banks do not really give a satisfactory service to their customers and only manage to survive because they have formed themselves into a non-competing cartel. This state of affairs has been going on for a great many years and so has a similar situation in many other professions.

The law is a self-serving cartel whereby lawyers pay themselves so much money that approximately 80 per cent of people in this country cannot afford to go to law. The catalogue of cartels goes on - accountants (insolvency fees to rise by up to 100 per cent (Business, June 3)), estate agents, stockbrokers, merchant bankers, insurance brokers, investment managers, travel agents, often offering a poor and minimal service at an inflated, cartel-protected price so that the principals of these businesses, people who in general have never taken a risk in their lives, can live in protected style.

We need to remind ourselves that these "professionals" live off the backs, ultimately of people who make things. What has been happening for years now is that these "professionals", because they charge far too much, are progressively stifling "real" business.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY WARRINGTON,  
19 Bloom Park Road, SW6.  
June 3.

### Mortgage swaps

From Mr David von Simson

Sir, Whilst it would be churlish to deny Bernard Levin (May 24) his share of *Schadenfreude* at the expense of the banks involved in the local authority swaps debacle, the damage done to the City of London's standing by the House of Lords decision requires a more serious response.

If Mr Levin were to take out a mortgage today (an amusing thought in itself) he would have the choice between paying a fixed or a floating rate of interest. Whichever he chose, he would, although he might not like the idea, be speculating on the future movement of interest rates. Were he to change his mind in a year's time, he would no longer need to re-mortgage his house, but could much more simply enter into an interest-rate swap to achieve the same effect.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,  
DAVID VON SIMSON,  
The Abbey,  
Ashton Abbotts,  
Buckinghamshire.

### Let them eat sweets

From Mr D. W. Sarll

Sir, In her *Profile* of Mr Neil Shaw, Chairman of Tate & Lyle (May 25), Gillian Bowditch reports him as saying of tooth decay that "the problem is not sugar, it's dental hygiene". And now Mr Newman, director of the Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance, states as a fact (May 29) that "on 98 per cent of the occasions we eat" the food contains carbohydrates involved in the caries process.

The recent report, *Dietary Sugars and Human Disease*, by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy, said of carbohydrates such as rice, potatoes and bread that they "are of low cariogenicity in humans". The report described three kinds of sugar, of which two are tooth-friendly: the intrinsic sugars remaining naturally in foods such as fruits, vegetables and cereals, and lactose sugar in milk.

The third kind is not located within the cellular structure of a food and is called non-milk extrinsic

or his building society would in effect do it on his behalf.

Whilst the capacity of local authorities to take advantage of this market was not of course anticipated by legislation drawn up long before its birth, the Bank of England has for many years monitored their actions and reported on them in their publications.

To call bankers (many foreign) "intellectuals, wallies and jobber-nows", for fitting to anticipate that after nearly ten years the House of Lords would disallow a perfectly normal commercial practice which the Bank of England had tacitly endorsed, is not a useful contribution to an outcome that harms the country's interests.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,  
DAVID VON SIMSON,  
The Abbey,  
Ashton Abbotts,  
Buckinghamshire.

(nme) sugar; it makes up one seventh of the average daily energy supply in the UK (about 90 per cent being sucrose sugar from sugar beet or sugar cane) and is highly cariogenic; for obvious reasons it is known to dentists as enemy (nme) sugar.

Every working day in England and Wales 950 children under the age of five, and 450 aged between five and nine years, undergo a general anaesthetic for teeth to be extracted. The myth that they could be saved from this indignity by means of a toothbrush was laid to rest a generation ago.

Dentists know that, given a fluoridated water supply, fluoridated toothpaste and three square meals a day (with nme sugars if you wish), and only friendly sugars if you wish, we can all go from cradle to grave without decay.

Yours faithfully,  
D. W. SARLL (Consultant in dental public health),  
Salford Health Authority,  
Peel House, Albert Street,  
Eccles, Manchester M30.  
June 3.

### Alcohol and health

From Professor A. G. Shaper

Sir, Your headline summary, "Alcohol can prevent early death", of a recent conference at the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh (report, May 23) gives a misleading description of what was a well-balanced debate on the relationship between alcohol intake, heart disease and death. All the available evidence indicates that non-drinkers have higher rates of heart attack deaths than light or moderate drinkers.

One interpretation of this finding

is that alcohol protects against heart attacks. Another interpretation, which was presented and fully discussed (although your report does not mention it) is that men in middle age may become non-drinkers or occasional drinkers because they have developed health problems, many of which increase the likelihood of a fatal heart attack, e.g., angina, high blood pressure, diabetes.

Most non-drinkers (probably three-quarters) are ex-drinkers and

### Gorbachev request for aid from West

From the Director of the Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies

Sir, The West's attitude towards the Soviet leader has come increasingly to resemble that of a banker who extends more and more lines of credit to a hopelessly profligate customer in the forlorn hope that he will miraculously make good. Indeed so much political capital has been invested in Mikhail Gorbachev that many in the West seem unwilling to contemplate a Soviet Union without him or a world without the Soviet Union.

As a result we are denied policies which would more reliably reflect Western interests while lending a measure of support to those who, like the peoples of the Baltic states, have a legitimate claim upon our sympathy. Accordingly, in its quest for stability the West tries to prop up an inherently unstable regime made yet more unstable by the unrealistic expectations aroused by perestroika.

Moreover, even as it entertains Mr Gorbachev's request to come to London next month to attend the Group of Seven meeting (report, June 5) there is little awareness that the Soviet economy continues to be run on a quasi-war footing with 25 per cent of national income or more going to the military sector.

It is a curious fact that despite "new thinking" and the new doctrine of "defence sufficiency" the Soviet Union should, in the sixth year of Mr Gorbachev's term as general secretary of the Communist party, be more powerfully armed than when he came to power, and should be planning to increase the military budget still further.

A new submarine presently rolls off the production line every five to six weeks and the Soviet Union's industrial complex outstrips its American counterpart at least in numerical terms in many categories of weapon production.

Even if this were not the case the truth is surely that a vast centralised state like the Soviet Union cannot be reformed from above. Indeed the attempt to bolt on some of the more superficial economic and legal aspects of the market economy would be laughable if it were not taken seriously by a range of Harvard professors, EC officials, wheat-belt Congressmen, the US President and, it seems, John Major.

A better way forward might lie in providing measured support for the new alternative power structures emerging within the Soviet Union: the republics, the new political parties and the new free trade

unions. Managing the disintegration of the Soviet empire will no doubt prove a daunting task requiring a degree of skill and understanding which has not always informed Western policy; propping it up, however, is likely to prove an impossible one which may encourage new acts of repression.

Yours faithfully,  
GERALD FROST, Director,  
Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies,  
13/14 Golden Square, W1.  
June 5.

From Mr Lionel Bloch

Sir, Are the colossal sums demanded by the Soviet leader readily available? The US have to meet liabilities of hundreds of billions of dollars following guarantees given to building society depositors who lost their money. If one adds to this the cost of the Gulf war, one can see why Washington cannot afford any large-scale on the scale demanded by the Soviet Union.

The coffers of the French government are depleted by extravagant expenditure on infrastructure and social services, whereas the German economy is stretched to the limit by unification.

Japan has wisely resisted Mr Gorbachev's entreaties and the British government, for all its exhibition of good will, is hardly in a financial position to do very much. Moreover, there are more deserving causes in Eastern Europe and Africa.

Assuming however that somehow the Seven could squeeze their taxpayers sufficiently to scrape together the funds demanded by the USSR, would it make sense to gift them to a moribund and incurable system? Mr Gorbachev now promises the drastic economic reforms which he rejected only a few months ago, but without radical political changes such reforms are meaningless.

Unless the hard-line generals and the parasitic nomenclature are swept away, any aid granted to the Soviet Union is not just squandered, it also prolongs the existence of an odious regime.

If Mr Gorbachev will leave London almost empty-handed, what is the point of inviting him? On the other hand, if he returns to Moscow with promises of massive Western aid, we will have to question the political and financial sanity of Western leaders.

Yours faithfully,  
LIONEL BLOCH,  
9 Wimpole Street, W1.  
June 4.

### Memories of fives

From the Ambassador of India to Norway

Sir, You remarked in a leader ("Fair play for blacks", May 28) that Eton fives is little played outside the British public school. I remember playing fives as a boy, in the 1940s, in the courts at the Government Arts College, Kumbakonam. This is a small town in what was then the Madras Presidency and known not only as the birthplace of the great mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan but also for its rowing.

I have no doubt that the masonry courts are still in use. I am pleased that my son was able to play the same game at Eton itself.

Yours faithfully,  
L. N. RANGARAJAN,  
Niels Juel's gate 30,  
0272 Oslo 2,  
Norway.  
May 29.

### Reading lessons

From Mr Simon Kugler

Sir, I was flabbergasted by David Hart's complaint (report, May 29) that "vast numbers of children have to be taught to read from scratch" when they first come to school.

Isn't that why we send children to school, to learn, among other things, the "three Rs"?

Yours etc.,  
SIMON KUGLER,  
Sedlers,  
15 Cranley Close,  
Guildford, Surrey.  
May 29.

### Pressing enquiry

From Mrs Sarah Playfair

Sir, In contrast, it seems, to Mr Wood (June 3), I like my trousers to be pressed and am grateful for the convenient device provided by hotels around the world. I am, however, distressed to report a growing trend among hotels to provide rooms designed for female executives in which, for some unaccountable reason, a trouser press is not included among the equipment.

Yours faithfully,  
SARAH PLAYFAIR,  
Archway Flat,  
Glynde Place,  
Glynde, East Sussex.  
June 4.

if the high rate of fatal heart attacks in this group is due to the accumulation of men at high risk in the non-discussed category, then the "protective" effect of alcohol is an artefact. There is more than enough alcohol being sold and consumed for the population not to require misleading encouragement to maintain a regular intake.

Yours faithfully,  
A. G. SHAPER,  
Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine,  
Department of Public Health and Primary Care,  
Rowland Hill Street, NW3.

### Losses at Lloyd's

From Mr A. J. L. Marx

Sir, Smug stupor was used by Charles Sturge and John Rew (May 30) to describe Lloyd's. As a Name, one of many placed in financial difficulties by recent events, I regularly receive Lloyd's Log and Lloyd's Newsletter. I have recently received the annual report and accounts for 1990. I presume 28,000 other Names receive these glossy and expensive documents also, and are therefore a major proportion of the readership.

I have scanned all three closely and can find barely a passing reference to the current disasters of the Fehrm, Gouda and Wellington syndicates. Who are these publications aimed at?

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW MARX,  
23a Nevill Square, SW5.  
May 30.

### Somnolent sermons

From the Venerable Roy Southwell

Sir, Correspondence regarding somnolent sermons (May 17, 27, June 1) needs to be complemented by reference to somnolent preachers. One such is said to have reported that he had been dreaming that he was preaching, and woke up and found that he was.

There is a need to examine causes as well as consequences. Is it not a fact that for various reasons not nearly enough time is allowed by preachers in the Church of England for biblical study and for efficient understanding of the art of homiletics? Nor would it seem that bishops encourage this primary work.

In an age of increasing professionalism in most vocations the church seems reluctant to ensure that preaching is given high priority in a person's use of time. Neglect of this leads to a waste of a valuable weekly opportunity. No wonder both person and people get bored and fall asleep - spiritually if not always physically.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
ROY SOUTHWELL,  
397 Sprowston Road, Norwich.

### Derby Day

From Mr Geoffrey Dodds

Sir, Long before those complaints whose houses overlook the Epsom Downs were born (report, June 4) a certain Mr Henry James, on a Derby Day visit in 1877, perceived he was in "for the vulgar on an unsurpassable scale, something blatantly, unimaginably, heretically shocking to timid taste". Further, he remarked that some who attended were so drunk as to be "merely bags of liquor".

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY DODDS,  
26 Elmhurst Court, St Peters Road, Croydon, Surrey.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071 782 5046).











## NEW RELEASES

**LEOPARD 2 (12):** Philippe Noiret and a whole lot of other lions come to the further adventures of two lions. Director, Claude Zidi. (Cinema Channel) (071-722 5330).  
**TOLENTIN COURT ROAD (12):** (071-722 5330).

**GRAVEYARD SHIFT (12):** Lucious tale of rats, rats, rats and a shadowy monster in a tentacle suit. Director, David Lynch. (Cinema Channel) (071-722 5330).  
**SIBLING RIVALRY (12):** Strained domestic scene from director Carl Reiner with the odd pleasing moment. (Cinema Channel) (071-722 5330).

**THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS (12):** Julia Roberts in a chilling performance. Director, Jonathan Demme. (Cinema Channel) (071-722 5330).  
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## CURRENT

**AY CARMELAI (12):** Carlos Saura's bolero, but also tale of two lions. Director, Carlos Saura. (Cinema Channel) (071-722 5330).

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## CINEMA GUIDE

**GOOFY BROWN'S ASSESSMENT OF FILMS IN LONDON (and where indicated with the symbol @) on release across the country.**

**VAL KILMER:** (12) *Grease* (071-722 5330).

**GREEN CARD (12):** Marriage of convenience becomes unbearable when a woman falls for a man. Director, John Dahl. (Cinema Channel) (071-722 5330).

**SIBLING RIVALRY (12):** Strained domestic scene from director Carl Reiner with the odd pleasing moment. (Cinema Channel) (071-722 5330).

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But mimetic skill would be nothing without passion, and passion is emphatically what Margolies feels for her author. Right at the start, she breaks off from trundling round a book-lined stage in the guise of a crumpled Mrs Gamp to explain, in a curiously bright, girlish voice, that it was Dickens who showed her that literature was not a peripheral amusement, but "the stuff of life itself". What other writer, she asks, managed

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Have we heard about his mother, his sister-in-law, and the poor, long-suffering wife he treated so shabbily? Would we like to know the origins of his desperate enthusiasm for slim, docile 17-year-olds?

Not all the parallelism proves convincing. There may be hints of Mrs Dickens senior in the dogged, dim-witted loyalty of Mrs Micawber, and of Dickens' own first landlady in the grim Mrs Pipchin of *Dombey and Son*, but when Margolies suggests there is self-portraiture in the disappointment and destructiveness of Miss Havisham, she pushes amateur psychology a bit far. Yet it would be a mistake to complain too much, since she and her pyjama suit are somehow managing imaginatively to recreate

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BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

**THE POPE AND THE WITCH** West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

ADD to this play's title the name of its author, Dario Fo, and the style and content of his earlier plays will give a hint at the nature of his latest: equal parts from the social liberation of *Carry On, Carry On* and the corruption in high places of *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*. This time, however, the places will be as high as it is possible for an Italian to reach: inside the golden sepulchre of Vatican City.

So it proves. A hundred thousand Third World orphans have been brought to St Peter's Square by the condom industry to shame Pope John Paul II into altering his ideas on birth control. Clambering about the furniture just inside the famous balcony where most of the play is set, Berwick Kaler's pop-eyed pontiff is already half cuckoo, trailing a dummy of himself across the marble floor and bashing it in the belly for answering him back. The prospect of facing the children finally turns his wits and, somehow or other, for the plot jumps about all over the shop - a natural therapist casts a spell on him. She is the witch of the title, by turns disguised as a cigarette-smoking nun and practising her arts in a drug rehabilitation centre.

For reasons too daft to go into, but far too arbitrary to accumulate a snowball of laughs, His Holiness is suspended from a chandelier while

singing a song from his childhood, "Two Little Boys" in Italian (some mistake, surely), is caught up in the heroin racket and gets in the way of a full hysterical. Since this is not quite *Carry On, Carry On*, a monstrous nun does not jab it in the papal bum, but the dose still sends him reeling. Firing off encyclopedias from all guns, he supplies free drugs so as to knock out the Mafia, declares contraception a dogma and becomes the target for exploding parrots, exploding nuns and other devilish Vatican tricks.

For's skill lies in hitting out at folly and hypocrisy through comedy, but in Jude Kelly's production, staged on an artfully sumptuous set from Rob Jones, the comedy comes in fits and starts. Rare are the scenes where it builds, and the only time it touches a peak is when Kaler, as the pope shot through with smack, rubber-legged and bawling up again in (there should be a word for it) prat-falls.

The evening contains some other pleasures. Brian Croucher's gangster cardinal from the Bronx, but not Susie Baxter in the vital role of the Female Principal. Mistaking briskness for comic speed, and burdened with sociological info which Andy de la Tour's adaptation turns into stodge, direction and performance here are seriously adrift.

Since he also introduces a major character of his own invention, it is not possible to say whether *Dei Fuori* ends and Fo begins, nor who is responsible for making this play fitfully funny but frequently stale.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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## Passion that speaks volumes

THEATRE  
Dickens' Women  
Hampstead

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For reasons too daft to go into, but far too arbitrary to accumulate a snowball of laughs, His Holiness is suspended from a chandelier while

singing a song from his childhood, "Two Little Boys" in Italian (some mistake, surely), is caught up in the heroin racket and gets in the way of a full hysterical. Since this is not quite *Carry On, Carry On*, a monstrous nun does not jab it in the papal bum, but the dose still sends him reeling. Firing off encyclopedias from all guns, he supplies free drugs so as to knock out the Mafia, declares contraception a dogma and becomes the target for exploding parrots, exploding nuns and other devilish Vatican tricks.

For's skill lies in hitting out at folly and hypocrisy through comedy, but in Jude Kelly's production, staged on an artfully sumptuous set from Rob Jones, the comedy comes in fits and starts. Rare are the scenes where it builds, and the only time it touches a peak is when Kaler, as the pope shot through with smack, rubber-legged and bawling up again in (there should be a word for it) prat-falls.

The evening contains some other pleasures. Brian Croucher's gangster cardinal from the Bronx, but not Susie Baxter in the vital role of the Female Principal. Mistaking briskness for comic speed, and burdened with sociological info which Andy de la Tour's adaptation turns into stodge, direction and performance here are seriously adrift.

Since he also introduces a major character of his own invention, it is not possible to say whether *Dei Fuori* ends and Fo begins, nor who is responsible for making this play fitfully funny but frequently stale.

JEREMY KINGSTON

**THE POPE AND THE WITCH** West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

ADD to this play's title the name of its author, Dario Fo, and the style and content of his earlier plays will give a hint at the nature of his latest: equal parts from the social liberation of *Carry On, Carry On* and the corruption in high places of *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*. This time, however, the places will be as high as it is possible for an Italian to reach: inside the golden sepulchre of Vatican City.

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For reasons too daft to go into, but far too









**By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT**

The party leaders said they were confident the chairman issue would be agreed. The statement came after reports that another obstacle to progress—a fresh dispute over the standing orders for phase two—had also been settled.

Mr Brooke welcomed the statement. "I am very happy with today's decision, as are all the party leaders." He was looking forward to chairing the plenary round in strand

# Labour

Continued from page 1

have the basis of a relationship of trust with Colin Byrne" and felt he had to be moved into another job.

"While I am confident I had the support of the management of the Labour party at headquarters and significant support on the NEC and shadow cabinet, when I talked it through with Neil he said he thought we should work together." He told Mr Kincock

## media chie

that it was a confidence issue and that if he insisted that they had to work together he would have to resign. "He did so insist. I had to resign."

Mr Byrne, aged 35, the chief press and broadcasting officer, is highly rated by the Labour leader and many senior MPs. Mr Kinnock was clearly unwilling to sacrifice his talents and there was anger among some of Mr Kinnock's colleagues that Mr Under-

Addressing the Knesset yesterday, Mr Arens said that the air force would continue to attack "anyone in Lebanon

Israeli security forces and its proxy militiamen patrolling the so-called "security zone" just inside Lebanon have been largely successful in preventing guerrilla incursions over the past six years, in contrast to the situation on the Jordanian border where gunmen have succeeded recently in infiltrating into Israel and attacking soldiers and civilians.

"He is the most English of our artists, but you wouldn't think so by the inconvenient way he is represented, by a handful of works at the Tate and National Gallery, and massive holdings at the V&A and British Museum," Sir Hugh Leggatt, a member of the Museums and Galleries Commission, said. He believes the defence ministry buildings next to the Tate would make the perfect venue.

But Lindsay Stainton, curator at the British Museum, was scornful: "To isolate great artists in a *cordon sanitaire* like that is pointless. They should be seen in the context of their contemporaries."

"While I am confident I had the support of the management of the Labour party at headquarters and significant support on the NEC and shadow cabinet, when I talked it through with Neil he said he thought we should work together." He told Mr Kinnoch

Mr Byrne, aged 35, the chief press and broadcasting officer, is highly rated by the Labour leader and many senior MPs. Mr Kinnock was clearly unwilling to sacrifice his talents and there was anger among some of Mr Kinnock's colleagues that Mr Under-

wood was "holding a pistol" to his head by insisting on a transfer. Mr Byrne worked under Peter Mandelson, the former director of communications, and is identified with his style of operating.

The NEC will choose Mr Underwood's successor. Mr Byrne will be a candidate but so might David Hill, Roy Hattersley's special adviser who was shortlisted for the job last time.

Mr Arens appeared to reveal his real motives behind his sudden preoccupation with Lebanon when he said: "It is important that Lebanon goes back to being an independent and sovereign state and that it will continue to preserve its identity and individuality, in spite of recent Syrian successes.

"We are convinced that in the end, the procedure of the Syrian takeover of Lebanon will be halted, and Lebanon will go back to being an independent state."

**A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?**

**By Philip Howard**

27 Queen seen in museum or gallery (7).  
28 A bitter exchange, it appears, over a head of the church (7).  
29 Speculator has a little drink with model (8).  
30 Western lawman tailed Arabian governor (6).

**DOWN**

1 Person who finally runs or co-ordinates TV programme (6-3).  
2 Elderly girl missing a six at the Oval? Right? (7).  
3 Unpaid workers put up with eccentric views (10).  
4 Book selected by child (9).  
5 Settled home one's in (4).  
6 An old thing in dramatic parts - might be wrong, perhaps (7).  
7 Opener bringing in troops repeatedly for the county (5).  
8 Fair, for example - or white, say

**Concise crossword page 17**

Northern Ireland.....  
AA Roadwatch is charged at  
minute (cheap rate) and 45p per

**Tuesday:** Highest day temp: Torquay, 17C (63F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Highland, 8C (46F); highest rainfall: Falmouth, Cornwall, 188 in; highest number: 1000.

Belfast	13	55	f	Guernsey	10	50	r
Birmingham	13	55	f	Inverness	11	52	a
Blackpool	17	63	f	Jersey	12	54	r
Bristol	11	52	r	London	15	59	f

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GOLD

مكتبة المجلد







## Defence group urges protection from cuts for research

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government should isolate spending on research and development from the current round of defence cuts, a parliamentary defence group said yesterday.

Action was necessary to preserve Britain's high-technology and skills bases not just in defence but in the rest of industry, said the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (Post), an American-style research charity funded by government grants.

The cross-party group gave warning that Britain's technology base was being weakened because the transfer between defence and civil technology

was being neglected. Defence research, development and production had built up substantial technological capacity and skills which benefited the civil economy, the group said.

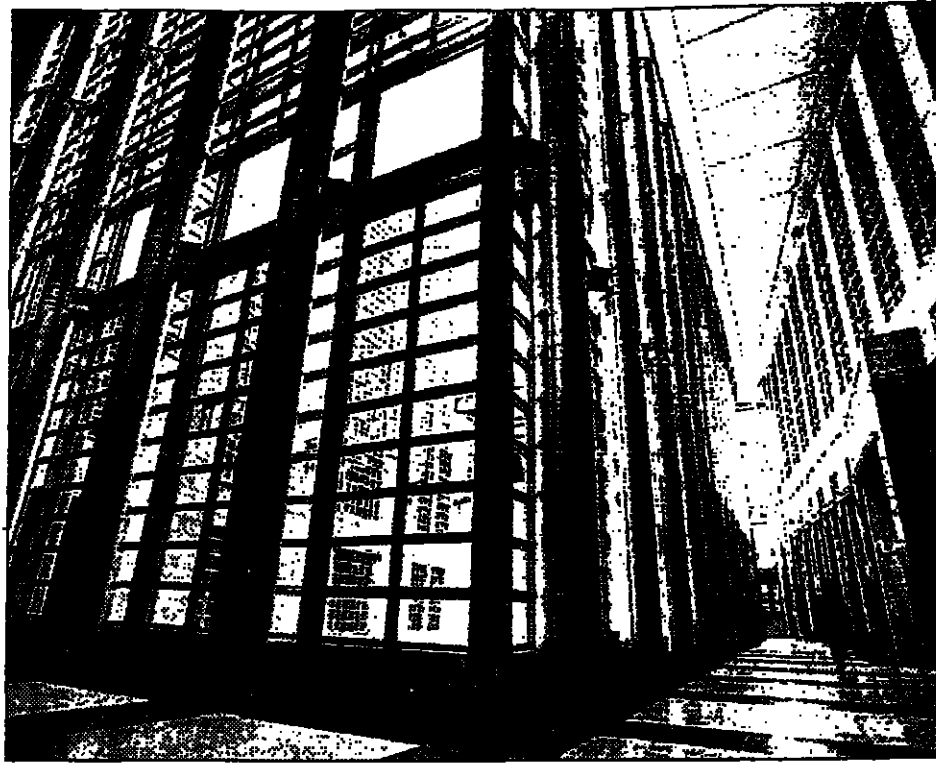
While a detailed report from the group on the relationships between defence and civil science and technology accepted that the transformation of east-west relationships would inevitably lead to reduced defence spending, Post said that countries other than the United Kingdom in a similar position were considering ways to preserve national high-tech resources. But it said that in Britain

"there is the danger that market forces will result in the irreversible loss of high-tech skills, with adverse effects on both defence and civil sectors".

To forestall this, the group suggested a range of policy options, including an expanded remit for the defence ministry in managing research and development.

The group also suggested reserving a fixed proportion of the defence ministry's budget for projects which would improve the UK's technological and manufacturing base as well as serving military purposes.

But Sir Ian Lloyd, MP for Havant and Post's board chairman, suggesting isolating R&D spending from the defence cuts, said: "The case for putting a ring fence around R&D within a shrinking defence budget as a whole can be put more effectively if it can be demonstrated that the R&D is not just going to benefit defence but will have a far wider benefit to the civil science and civil industrial base."



On reflection: chrome and glass replaces wood panelling at Goldman Sachs offices

## Goldman Sachs opens offices

By NEIL BENNETT  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

GOLDMAN Sachs, the American investment bank, has opened its new \$300 million European headquarters in the former Daily Telegraph building at Peterborough Court on London's Fleet Street.

The wood panelling and gloomy back offices have been swept away and replaced by chrome and glass courtyards

and corridors. Only the building's famous Art Deco facade has been left untouched.

Goldman Sachs, whose property department developed and financed the building itself, has most of the space although part has been let to Crédit Agricole, the French bank, and Touche Ross, the accountant.

Eugene Fife, the chairman of Goldman Sachs, said the true value of the offices was

not financial. "We spend a lot of time in this building. We feel very comfortable in it," he said.

Goldman has reserved 50,000 sq ft of spare space in Peterborough Court for future expansion.

The opening underlines Goldman's growing influence. Since the late Eighties it has become one of the leading houses in international mergers and acquisitions.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Mercedes forecasts static year for profits

MERCEDES Benz, the car-making subsidiary of Daimler-Benz, Germany's largest industrial concern, expects no rise in profitability this year after announcing profits for 1990 that were almost unchanged on the previous year. Net profits last year rose from DM1.49 billion to DM1.55 billion, while turnover rose from DM4.13 billion to DM5.06 billion.

Worldwide, car sales were hardly changed at 188,300. The company said it was encouraged, however, by the strong demand for its new "S" class model - delivery times are now two years. The success of this car is considered vital for the company's future profitability. The present daily production run of 200 is soon to be increased to 370. One of the company's most disappointing performances came from its British subsidiary where operating profits fell from DM66.5 million to DM 8.3 million last year.

## Caffyns races to £711,000

CAFFYNS, the motor dealer, lifted pre-tax profits to £711,000 (£664,000, including an exceptional credit of £372,000) in the year to end March. Turnover grew to £133.9 million (£130.9 million). Earnings per share climbed from 12.5p to 13.9p and the final dividend is maintained at 6.5p, making an unchanged total of 11.5p. The shares firmed 4p to 354p.

## Allied places \$400m notes

THE embattled treasury department at Allied-Lyons has placed its nose above the parapet with a \$400 million private placement of 10- and 15-year senior notes with American institutional investors. The notes were issued by Allied-Lyons North America Corp, but are guaranteed by the parent. The proceeds will be used to repay more expensive dollar bank borrowings.

## Merchant seeks £5.8m

MERCHANT Retail Group, the food retail and garden shop company undergoing restructuring under new management, has announced improved profits and a £5.8 million rights issue to finance organic growth. Pre-tax profits for the year to March 30 were £3.4 million, up 13 per cent on last year's £3 million. A final 1.3p (1.2p) dividend makes 2.4p (2.3p) for the year. Turnover was £150 million (£160.4 million).

The new shares are being offered at 33p, against a pre-announcement market price of 41½p. The shares moved down ½p to 41p on the news of the rights issue.

## Atkins falls to £243,000

ATKINS Brothers (Hosiery), the East Midlands textiles company, made pre-tax profits of only £51,000 in the second half of the year, in line with April's profits warning. Profits for the year to end March were £243,000, against £870,000 for the previous year. Atkins is paying a final dividend of 6p, making a total of 9.6p for the year, compared with 12p a year ago.

## McInerney loses £26m

MCINERNEY Properties, the Dublin property company, incurred losses of Ir£29.1 million (£26 million) for the year to end December (Ir£3 million), passed its dividend and issued a warning that its accounts will be qualified by its auditors. The company reports net assets of Ir£16.9 million (Ir£38 million). The passed dividends compare with last year's distribution of Ir£2.5p.

## Cluff looks at growth

CLUFF Resources, currently developing gold mining interests in Zimbabwe and Ghana, might expand its gold interests to include Oman and the Yemen, Algy Cluff, the chairman, told yesterday's annual meeting.

The group was encouraged by the diamond prospects of its 38.9 per cent-owned Cluff Resources Pacific in Australia which had found five structures and was examining another 11 in New South Wales. The group's net worth was 147p a share, but they were traded at 43p. The investment perception was, wrongly, that Cluff depended on Africa.

## Oriflame drops to £6.05m

By PHILIP PANGALOS

FULL-year profits at Oriflame International, the London-listed Swedish cosmetics group, tumbled 37 per cent to £6.05 million, dragged down by a £2 million provision and depressed cosmetic sales in Scandinavia and Britain.

Profits before tax and unusual items fell 23 per cent to £8.05 million (£10.5 million) in the year to end March. Sales edged up to £55.2 million from £54.3 million.

The drop in final pre-tax profits from last year's £9.63 million came after a £2 million provision against potential losses on an investment in commercial paper. The investment was handled by Morgan Grenfell, which the company dropped as its financial adviser last year.

Robert af Jochnick, Oriflame's chairman, said: "The year just past was a period when we experienced recessions in our major markets in Scandinavia and the United Kingdom."

Earnings per share slid to 10.3p (17.2p), although the final dividend is maintained at 8p, making an unchanged total of 12p for the year.

## Mulcahy salary queried

GEOFF Mulcahy, Kingfisher's chairman and chief executive, came in for some questioning about his salary at the annual meeting. Mr Mulcahy, who became chairman last year, was paid £754,000 compared with his salary of £657,000 in the year before.

He told shareholders that the current year would be another difficult one for retailers but said Kingfisher would continue to grow.

### CSG in black

Corporate Services Group made pre-tax profits of £813,000 in the nine months to end December (loss of £14.5 million in the previous year). Again, there is no dividend.

### TNT sells

TNT Transport, a subsidiary of TNT, has sold its holding of 2.16 million shares in Airborne Freight for US\$51.3 million.

### Gieves losses

Gieves Group made a pre-tax loss of £428,000 in the year to end January (profit of £2.29 million). The total dividend is cut to 3p (4.2p).

## EC to investigate postal monopolies

From TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan, European Commissioner for competition, has issued a warning that Europe's post office monopolies will soon have to change their ways.

The commission's communications directorate has promised to deliver a green paper on opening up postal services by the summer. A spokesman for Sir Leon said he was adding his department's opinions "to open up the debate".

The battle for the European market of 380 million consumers is pitched between monopolies, such as the Post Office, and private carriers, such as Federal Express. Com-

munication sources say the EC executive is likely to favour the state monopolies keeping their traditional share of domestic letter deliveries, but opening up parcel traffic, particularly across borders.

"I believe that the absolute minimum of domestic services should be reserved for monopoly providers," Sir Leon said.

He gave warning that monopolies would lose any fight to retain control of express services, citing cases the commission won against Spain and The Netherlands last year. Any EC directives on postal services are not expected until the beginning of next year.

## NOW THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL HAS MORE NOTES TO PLAY WITH.



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THURSDAY JUNE 6 1991  
BUSINESS ROUNDUP  
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## Millbank keeps its powder dry

These are trying times for the directors of ICI, waiting for Lord Hanson to play the next card in an unusual poker game where only Hanson and a handful of his closest colleagues know for sure the ultimate nature of the stakes.

A company whose early fortunes were founded on the manufacture of explosives knows only too well the importance of keeping its powder dry. For Hanson's game plan may well be protracted even if ultimately it does not involve a full blown takeover bid.

It must therefore be galling for the moguls of Millbank that they are forced into a position of perceived inactivity and must leave unanswered the impression that the company has lost its way during the past decade. The few smoke signals emerging from ICI's headquarters staff suggest that the top brass has answers aplenty for such criticisms and furthermore has a clear strategy for dealing with the next decade.

ICI feels it has, by standards of its own making and those of its international peers, transformed itself mightily. Further, ICI

knows that it is coping with the current recession far better than it would have without the reshaping of the past few years.

The last point is inescapable. Close on two-thirds of ICI's profits at the start of the decade arose from oil and fertilisers. ICI's critics say that it is merely keeping its head above water at present. On the business mix of 10 years ago, the company would by now be close to drowning.

The changes have been radical. In 1980, more than 40 per cent of ICI chemical sales were in Britain, just 16 per cent in America and 19 per cent in continental Europe. Since then, the strategy of globalisation has been pursued forcefully, reducing dependence on the British economy considerably. Last year, Britain accounted for just 22 per cent of chemical sales while almost 30 per cent arose in America and 26 per cent on the continent of Europe.

Achieving this transformation has been no mean feat. The acquisitions unit, set up in 1984, has made £3 billion worth of purchases and realised some £2.5 billion. Cost cutting and job losses have been severe. Today there appears to be little sentimentality towards any of ICI's operations, however much they may appear to be part of the core business. The attempt to dispose of fertilisers indicates the mood of the moment. Nothing is sacrosanct these days.

Most significantly for ICI shareholders, their board's strategic essentials for success in international chemicals indicate a fundamental clash with the Hanson approach. Where ICI believes it should be globally integrated, Hanson is wedded to Britain and the US. ICI's emphasis on consistent long term capital and research and

development spending is far from Hanson's approach. And ICI's commitment to excellence in science-based research and management skills would not even register as a priority at Hanson. A merger of ICI and Hanson would present a monumental clash of cultures. What on earth would it do to the business?

### Dual role

Ian Byatt is playing an interesting double role in his recent exercises in whipping the privatised water groups into line. In the competitive world of regulation, he is letting no legitimate opportunity go begging to make sure he is seen as an active champion of the consumer and that the water

companies know who is boss. Many of them do not like it and believe he is straying into the territory of their managerial discretion. At the same time, however, he is trying to protect the existing regime and thereby protect the companies from something worse, possibly in the shape of an incoming Labour government committed to the usual populist rhetoric about utilities.

Several of the companies have well understood this. In letter number 55 to managing directors, he counselled against excessive dividend rises on profits that were temporarily higher than expected due to high interest rates or lower than expected costs. Companies should consider giving something back to the consumer.

At that time, only Yorkshire Water had cannily raised its prices by slightly less than the permitted amount two years running. But the message was

already sinking in round the country. Thames, once seen as the most cavalierly venturesome company, had already decided to rein back its second half dividend rise. It has also pointedly announced in advance that it will not ask for the eventual £200 million cost of switching away from sea dumping of treated sewage sludge to be passed on to consumers, as it is entitled to do.

Mr Byatt's attempt to influence diversifications aroused even more hackles, to the extent that he is imposing a licence condition.

The regulator's insistence that he expects companies to consult him in advance over any relatively large diversification, or one that "could involve substantial risks or be controversial" reads like gross interference in management of non-regulated activities.

In practice, companies have already taken heed of the message. When Severn Trent paid £212 million to buy the Biffa waste business, it stressed that this was being financed without recourse to funds earmarked for its investment programme.

## Why Whitbread preferred the flavour of Boddington

THE Whitbread Investment Company's early declaration of support for Boddington's £127.7 million hostile bid for JA Devenish has sent a shiver down the spines of other regional brewers who believed they were protected from takeover by WIC's shareholders.

WIC's acceptance in respect of its 14.9 per cent stake in Devenish has also surprised leading brewing analysts who largely recommended rejection. The consensus is that though Devenish faces difficult conditions this year, restructuring already completed enhances its long-term value to levels well in excess of Boddington's offer.

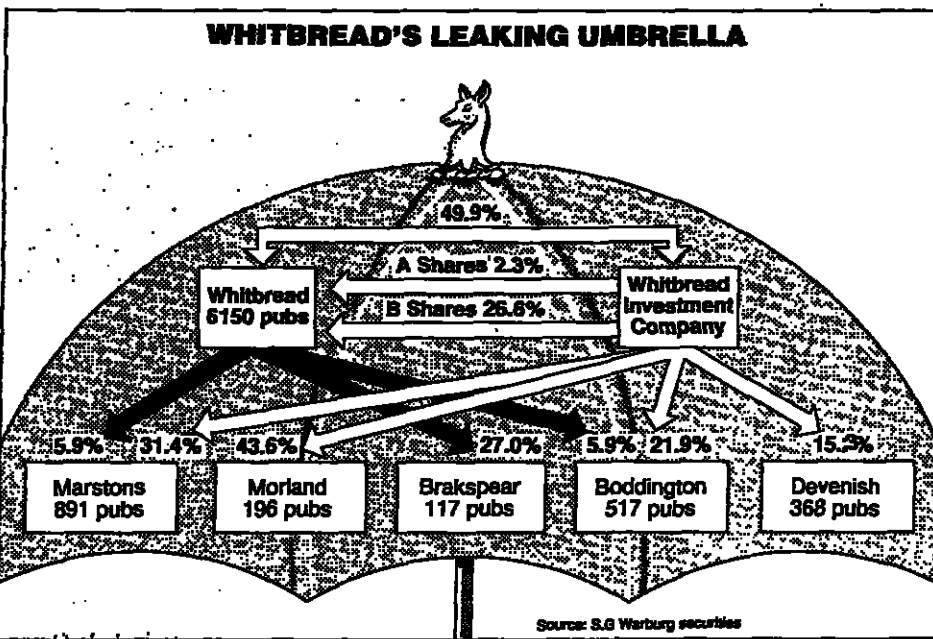
Why the furore? After all, WIC is an investment trust and has an obligation first and foremost to its shareholders. Although WIC is viewed as a defender of regional brewers against the likes of Bass and Allied-Lyons, its unwritten aim is to protect the interests of Whitbread, its parent. In this case, both Boddington and Devenish have supply agreements with Whitbread, which would expect to benefit from a merger of their estates.

Nor has the investment company an obligation to support incumbent management. When Robin Farrington became chairman three years ago, WIC outlined its strategy, saying it would be prepared to support outside management if this provided the best prospects for longer term development of a brewery.

What surprised the sector is the manner of WIC's acceptance. The investment company made public its support for Boddington almost two weeks before the final closing date instead of normally waiting until the last minute before giving a formal undertaking.

WIC also seized the chance to criticise the management record at Devenish. "WIC has been concerned for some time at the performance of Devenish and the latest half-year results and full-year forecast have done nothing to reassure it," it said after Devenish pledged to hold full-year pre-tax profits at £11.3 million for the year to September.

Michael Cannon, chairman of Devenish, expressed out-



which is advising Devenish. On June 3, WIC made its decision public. WIC has its reasons for supporting the bid. One may be the requirement to cut each holding to below 15 per cent by November 1992 to comply with the monopolies commission's statutory orders. The investment trust would own 18 per cent of the merged group and could dilute that by 3 per cent over a few months.

But the orders may have an even more significant impact on WIC. Philip Morrissey, the

total number of public houses owned by the group exceeds 2,000.

Exceptions to the orders are companies that are part of a group simply because another member owns 15 per cent of the voting share capital, so each regional brewer, including Boddington and Devenish, would not have to untie or sell guest beers in their public houses.

Perhaps for these reasons WIC may be taking decisions that appear out of line with those of other investors. If this is so, one company that should be looking over its shoulder is Marston, Thompson & Evershed, owner of almost 900 public houses, in which WIC has a 31.4 per cent stake.

By dealing first with Marston, Whitbread and WIC could decide to leave their holdings in Brakspear and Morland unchanged, given the small number of extra public houses, about 150, Whitbread would have to untie.

No one certainly is that WIC is no longer perceived as a trusted ally. It also seems inevitable that this mistrust will extend to Whitbread, which will be seen as the ultimate beneficiary of WIC's dealings.

MARTIN BARROW

## Reed needs flagship business

IF A company with Reed's wide spread of professional, business and consumer publishing operations was based on the continent, its shares would be highly rated. After a 20 per cent drop in underlying earnings, mainly due to the economic cycle, Peter Davis's group is, however, valued on a conventional recovery rating of 14.4 times earnings for the year to end March, with a yield of 4.9 per cent on the increased dividend.

The discrepancy could be put down to a delayed City reaction to the switch to pure publishing, pending a return to normal trading conditions. There are other reasons.

Reed has four similarly sized divisions, for European business publications, American business books and British consumer publishing. All are widely drawn. For instance, European business ranges from the successful exhibitions division to trade magazines; consumer publishing ranges from *Country Life* to provincial newspapers, where profits fell a quarter.

Despite this huge variety of relatively small contributors, all divisions showed lower profits except for consumer publishing. Profits there rose 2 per cent thanks to the TV

*Times*, whose profits of about £25 million are likely to be halved, at least, this year due to a circulation war following the change in listings rules.

Some special factors will unwind Reed's benefit this year, notably the dollar and the £20 million spent on restructuring, which will help costs. But second half pre-tax profits fell 35 per cent and trading is no better than in the poorest, January-to-March quarter, when the Gulf war also hit travel publishing. Profits in the seasonally less important first half will be down, so real economic recovery will be needed to keep earnings level for the year.

As Terry Connor, of Smith New Court, has pointed out, the new look Reed still appears to be a hostage to the economy. The mature acquired businesses will prosper again with recovery. But internal electronic or other publishing initiatives seem insufficient to generate above-average growth. The group badly needs to build a flagship business with big potential to counter short-term risk - although BSB was evidently not the answer.

charge of £14.2 million, and net earnings turned out at 17.4p (18.4p) a share.

The Pact International division that distributes to retailers may not last long. Operating profits at RS were £56.5 million (£53.1 million), but it was a year of mixed fortunes. In Britain, the recession hurt and the profit increase was below expectations, while in America competitive pressures led to a small, but unquantified, loss.

The strong cashflow helped offset capital expenditure of £22.7 million and the £40 million spent on acquisitions, but Electrocomponents paid interest of £800,000 compared with the net receipt of £1.2 million previously.

Year-end gearing was 28.3 per cent, but should ease to between 5 per cent and 10 per cent this financial year. The recession suggests pre-tax profits this year may only creep forward to £58 million. As cost saving benefits come through, however, and if business activity picks up, profits could reach £68 million in 1992.

At 245p, trading on 13.3 times prospective earnings, a rating which eases to 11.4 times on 1992 profit hopes, the shares look well up with events.

### WIC is an investment trust and has an obligation first to its shareholders

to merge. As a condition, Devenish wanted Boddington to sell its nursing homes and hotels and concentrate on public house management.

Denis Cassidy, chairman of Boddington, disagreed, and Devenish walked away. WIC supported the merger and was angered by Mr Cannon's decision. Thus, when the bid was launched, Devenish knew it could not count on its support. On May 31, Devenish published a profit forecast and held final talks with WIC at Barings,

SG Warburg analyst, argues that the statutory order which obliges brewers to relinquish the tie on public houses they own in excess of 2,000 applies to WIC as well as Whitbread.

Not only individual brewers have to comply with the orders. So do "large brewery groups" that are defined as the combination of any one company with every other company in which it has control over 15 per cent or more of the voting share capital, provided that at least one company in the group is a brewer and the

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Paying for Dunsdale

GODFREY Jillings, chief executive of Fimbra, the City watchdog, says the government should bail out former clients of Dunsdale Securities, the investment firm that crashed a year ago with losses of £8 million. In a recorded interview for television's *This Week* tonight, Jillings says that Fimbra members should not have to pay for losses arising before August 1988. The scope of the Investors Compensation Scheme, funded in part by Fimbra members, is to be debated in the High Court next week. Jillings says: "I believe that obviously the government should bear the cost as part of the pre-emptive costs of setting up the Financial Services Act."

### Change of diet

BUSINESSMEN in Japan are turning away from sushi and seaweed in favour of fast-food, spaghetti and rich pastries -

### All in the mind

THE snow and rain sweeping down from the Arctic circle were no match for Brian



"The government is quite right - they should all be muzzled and neutered"

### All in a name

BODDINGTON Group could be forgiven for thinking that JA Devenish has friends in all the right places. Denis Cassidy, the Boddington chairman, may not have been thrilled to discover that a highly-critical report of his hostile bid for Devenish in the *Morning Advertiser*, the drinks industry bible, was penned by a certain John Reynolds. "Not

### Facts and figures

ACCOUNTANTS, like actuaries, are renowned for their love of facts and conformity. So they are certain to warm to Ian McNeil, newly appointed president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, who takes up the role 26 years after his father. McNeil, a partner in the Brighton office of Moores Rowland, may find little has changed since his father Robert was made president in 1965. Then, interest rates were high, credit was tight and the tax system was under scrutiny. But there was, of course, one important difference. There was a Labour government...

JON ASHWORTH

# 12.28% 13.00%

gross gross c.a.r.\*

## IT'S NEVER BEEN SO ACCESSIBLE.

You won't find many current accounts that offer better access to your money round-the-clock, without any penalty whatsoever.

And you won't find any from a major building society or bank that pay such high interest rates as this.

Northern Rock's Current Account pays up to 13.00% gross c.a.r. on every pound in your account.

	GROSS	GROSS C.A.R.*	NET†	NET C.A.R.*
£25,000+	12.28%	13.00%	9.21%	9.61%
£10,000+	11.45%	12.07%	8.59%	8.94%
£2,500+	10.85%	11.41%	8.14%	8.45%
£1,000+	7.65%	7.92%	5.74%	5.89%
£1+	6.35%	6.54%	4.76%	4.87%

Opening a Northern Rock Current Account is subject to status and residence. Rates may vary, but are correct at the time of going to press. \* Interest will be payable net of basic rate income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or, subject to the required registration, gross. † Calculated annual rate - the annual return on your savings if monthly interest payments are reinvested in the account. Current account interest is not available on overdrafts. Overdrafts are available to customers over 18 years of age. Branches and Agents throughout the UK. Please request Yellow Pages. Eligible for membership by Trustees. Members of the Building Societies Association. Assets covered £2,000m. If you make your deposit by cheque, you will start earning interest from the day after it is received or later if your cheque takes longer to clear.

To Anne Widdow, Customer Services Manager, Northern Rock Building Society, (0800) 871, 040, 041, 042, 043, 044, 045, 046, 047, 048, 049, 050, 051, 052, 053, 054, 055, 056, 057, 058, 059, 060, 061, 062, 063, 064, 065, 066, 067, 068, 069, 070, 071, 072, 073, 074, 075, 076, 077, 078, 079, 080, 081, 082, 083, 084, 085, 086, 087, 088, 089, 090, 091, 092, 093, 094, 095, 096, 097, 098, 099, 100, made payable to NORTHERN ROCK BUILDING SOCIETY, to be invested in the CURRENT ACCOUNT. Please confirm receipt of my cheque and send my application form.

Full terms and conditions are available upon request.

That's because, unlike many accounts, interest is paid monthly not annually. So you can build interest on your interest.

Access to your money couldn't be easier. You enjoy all the normal banking services, including a cash card, free cheque book and £50 or £100 cheque guarantee card (subject to status).

Even opening an account is simple.

You can invest straight away with our FREEMINT coupon. Or you can phone us free on 0800 591 500, or call into any Northern Rock branch.

**NR**  
**NORTHERN ROCK**  
*Current Account*

Northern Rock Building Society.  
Principal Office: Northern Rock House, Gouffert,  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL. Telephone: 091-285 7191.

Full name/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/s \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## The two Scottish electricity companies share offers



**HE**  
HYDRO-ELECTRIC

## Offers for Sale

**ScottishPower**

# by Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited and The British Linen Bank Limited on behalf of The Secretary of State for Scotland

HM Government is now offering for sale 100 per cent. of the ordinary share capital of each of Hydro-Electric and ScottishPower. The offer price of 240p per share is payable in instalments of 100p now, 70p on 5 May, 1992 and 70p on 6 April, 1993.

This advertisement contains the terms and conditions of application, a guide to completing the public application form and a public application form. It does not contain any information about Hydro-Electric or ScottishPower. It should therefore be read in conjunction with the Prospectus dated 30 May, 1991 which contains approved listing particulars relating to both Companies. Copies of the Prospectus may be obtained, until the Offers for Sale close, from most banks and post offices throughout Scotland, branches of NatWest and Ulster Bank, and Scottish banks in England and Wales. In applying for shares in Hydro-Electric and ScottishPower you will be treated as applying on the basis of the information in the relevant Parts of the Prospectus and on the terms and conditions set out in this advertisement. Expressions defined in the Prospectus have the same meaning in this advertisement as in the Prospectus. Before deciding to apply for shares you should consider carefully whether shares are a suitable investment for you. Their value can go down as well as up. If you need advice, you should consult a stockbroker, solicitor, accountant, bank manager or other professional adviser.

### SHARE OFFERS AND APPLICATION AND INSTALMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The approximate numbers of shares being offered for sale in the UK and overseas are:

Scottish Hydro-Electric plc	383.4 million	Scottish Power plc	814.8 million
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#### (a) Applications

Applications must be received no later than 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 12 June, 1991. Instructions on how to return completed public application forms are set out below. The right is reserved to reject, in whole or in part, any application. Once made, applications may not be withdrawn.

#### (b) No Multiple Applications

ONLY ONE APPLICATION FORM MAY BE USED TO APPLY FOR SHARES FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANY PERSON. The only exceptions to this rule are Permitted Employee Applications (as defined in the Prospectus) which may be made by eligible employees and pensioners of Hydro-Electric, ScottishPower and Scottish Nuclear.

Multiple applications and suspected multiple applications are liable to be rejected.

Criminal proceedings may be instituted against anyone knowingly making or authorising a multiple application for his or her own benefit, or that of any other person, either solely or jointly with other persons. Under the terms and conditions, an applicant can be required to disclose to the Secretary of State or his agents any information about the application which may be requested.

#### (c) Allocations

The basis of allocation of the shares in the Companies is expected to be announced by 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 17 June, 1991. If your application for shares is successful, in whole or in part, you will be sent an interim certificate for the shares allocated to you. If there is heavy demand for shares, you may receive fewer shares than you apply for or, in some cases, none at all. Allocations of shares in respect of applications for package units may not, depending on the relative levels of demand for shares in the Companies and the basis of allocation, be made in the proportions of 32 shares in Hydro-Electric and 68 shares in ScottishPower. If no part of your application for shares is accepted, all moneys paid on application will be returned (without interest). If your application for shares is accepted in part, you will receive (without interest) a refund cheque for the balance of the moneys paid on application.

#### (d) Dealings

It is expected that dealings in the shares in each Company will commence on The Stock Exchange at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 18 June, 1991 and that circumstances permitting, interim certificates will be sent to applicants allocated shares under the Offers for Sale on or before Monday, 24 June, 1991. If circumstances require a revised posting plan, an announcement will be made. Applicants who wish to sell before they have received an interim certificate will only be able to do so if they make arrangements to deal on this basis. Applicants who deal before receipt of an interim certificate will do so at the

risk of selling entitlements to shares for which they have not received an allocation.

#### (e) Further instalments

You will be sent separate reminders in respect of shares you hold in each Company in advance of the dates when the second and final instalments become payable. The reminders will be sent to your address on the relevant register at that time. If you do not pay any instalments for which you are liable your right to the shares may be cancelled. If you sell your shares, the purchaser will become liable for any further instalments due (once the transfer has been registered).

#### (f) Overseas applicants

No person receiving a copy of this document and/or an application form in any territory other than the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man may treat the same as constituting an invitation or offer to him, nor should he in any event use such application form unless, in the relevant territory, such an invitation or offer could lawfully be made to him or such form could lawfully be used without contravention by any person of any registration or other regulatory or legal requirements. It is the responsibility of any person outside the UK receiving a copy of this document and/or an application form and wishing to make an application hereunder to satisfy himself as to full observance of the laws of any relevant territory in connection therewith, including the obtaining of requisite governmental or other consents or the observance of any other requisite formalities and the payment of any applicable taxes due in such territory.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

#### Introduction

If you apply for shares in Hydro-Electric and ScottishPower (each a "Company") or (in the case of eligible customers of Hydro-Electric and ScottishPower, eligible employees of Hydro-Electric, ScottishPower and Scottish Nuclear applying under the Free Offers, the Matching Offers, the Discount Offers and the Priority Offers and eligible pensioners of Hydro-Electric, ScottishPower and Scottish Nuclear applying under the Pensioner Priority Offers) for shares in either of them, you will be agreeing with the Secretary of State for Scotland, Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited, The British Linen Bank Limited, The Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland, The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, The Royal Trust Company and both or the relevant one of the Companies as set out below, completion of an application form for shares in both Companies will be treated as a separate and independent application for shares in each Company.

#### Offer to purchase shares

- You offer to purchase from the Secretary of State at the Offer Price the number of shares indicated in your application (or any smaller number in respect of which your application is accepted) in the Company on these terms and conditions.
- You agree that your offer cannot be revoked prior to 18 July 1991 and promise that the cheque or draft accompanying your application will be honoured on first presentation. The Secretary of State agrees that he will not, prior to 18 July 1991, offer any of the shares in the Company to any person other than by means of one of the procedures referred to in the Prospectus. Eligible persons duly applying for customer preference will be entitled to customer preference and eligible persons duly applying for non-customer preference may be entitled to non-customer preference on the basis described in Part 5, paragraph A, of the Prospectus. This paragraph 2 constitutes a collateral contract between you and the Secretary of State. It becomes binding when your application is posted to, or (if delivered) is received by a receiving bank.
- If your application form is not completed correctly, or if the accompanying cheque or draft is for the wrong amount, it may still be treated as valid. In these circumstances the Secretary of State's (or his agent's) decision as to whether to treat your application as valid, and how to construe, amend or complete it, shall be final. You will not, however, be treated as having offered to purchase more shares in the Company than is indicated in your application for shares in the Company.
- Any application may be rejected in whole or in part.
- Acceptance of your offer to purchase shares  
The Secretary of State may accept your offer to purchase (if your application is received, valid, processed and not rejected) either:  
(i) by notifying The Stock Exchange of the basis of allocation (in which case the acceptance will be on that basis); or  
(ii) by notifying acceptance to the receiving bank which processed your application. The acceptance may be of the whole or any part of your offer and, accordingly, the number of shares in the Company you offer to purchase may be scaled down.
- If the Secretary of State accepts your offer to purchase (in whole or in part) there will be a binding contract under which you will be required to purchase the shares in respect of which your offer has been accepted, prior to 18 July 1991, both:  
(i) the whole of the ordinary share capital of Hydro-Electric and ScottishPower (issued and to be issued) is admitted to the Official List of The Stock Exchange; and  
(ii) the obligations of the Priority Applicants under the Priority Invitation Letters referred to in Part 4, Section 3, paragraph C of the Prospectus become unconditional and are not terminated.
- You will not be entitled to exercise any remedy of rescission for innocent misrepresentation at any time after acceptance. This does not affect any other rights you may have.

#### Payment for the shares

- You undertake to pay the purchase price for the shares in the Company in respect of which your offer is accepted in three instalments as described in the Prospectus. The cheque or bankers draft accompanying your application may be presented for payment before acceptance of your offer, but this will not constitute acceptance of your offer, either in whole or in part. The proceeds of this presentation will be held pending acceptance and, if your offer is accepted, the conditions in paragraph 6(i) and (ii) above are satisfied, will be applied in discharging the first instalment, which is due upon acceptance. The second instalment is due on 5 May, 1992 and the final instalment on 6 April, 1993 (and, in each case, for value by 3.00 p.m. on that date). Following payment in full of the purchase price the Secretary of State will arrange for the shares which you have agreed to purchase to be transferred to you. This transfer will not, however, occur before 18 March, 1993.
- If your application is invalid, is rejected or is not accepted in full, or if the circumstances described in paragraph 6(i) and (ii) above do not occur prior to 18 July 1991, any proceeds of the cheque or draft accompanying your application (or if your application is accepted in part, the unused balance of those proceeds) will be refunded to you without interest.
- The Secretary of State may require you to pay interest or his other resulting costs (or both) if the cheque or draft accompanying your application is not honoured on first presentation. If you are required to pay interest, you will pay the amount determined by the Secretary of State or his agents to be the interest on the amount of the cheque or draft from the date of acceptance until the date of receipt of cleared funds. The rate of interest will be the then published bank base rate of a clearing bank selected by the Secretary of State plus 5 per cent. per annum. The Secretary of State may apply part of any payment received from you in paying this interest or other costs. In this event (or if the late payment is for other reasons insufficient) the remainder of the payment will be applied in paying the first instalment in respect of as many shares in the Company as possible. Any balance of the payment remaining will be held by the Secretary of State on your behalf and may be applied in paying any other amounts due to the Secretary of State. If the Secretary of State terminates the agreement to purchase shares under paragraph 11 below and no other amounts remain due to the Secretary of State, the remaining balance will be returned to you (without interest).
- If your cheque or bankers draft is not honoured on first presentation then, at any time until the Secretary of State has received, in cleared funds, the first instalment in respect of a share, the Secretary of State may terminate the agreement to purchase that share. This termination will be effected by notice being despatched to you. In the event of termination you will pay to the Secretary of State, on demand, such amount as may be certified on his behalf as being necessary to compensate the Secretary of State for the losses, costs and expenses incurred or

expected to be incurred as a result of the cheque or draft not being honoured on first presentation and as a result of termination (taking into account any amounts paid under paragraph 10 above and any profit gained on the resale of the share).

- If you receive any interim certificate in respect of the shares you have agreed to purchase before the Secretary of State has received, in cleared funds, the first instalment in respect of those shares, you shall forthwith return it to the receiving bank from which it was sent.

#### Instalment Agreement

- Upon receipt by the Secretary of State in cleared funds of the first instalment in respect of any share for which your offer to purchase has been accepted, you will become a party to, and will be bound by, the Instalment Agreement in respect of that share. Accordingly from that date you will be entitled to the benefit of rights attached to that share in accordance with the terms of the Instalment Agreement. Until that date the Secretary of State will remain entitled to the benefit of all rights attached to that share. Upon your becoming a party to the Instalment Agreement in respect of any share, the obligation to pay the second and final instalments in respect of that share, and the obligation to transfer shares to you, contained in paragraph 8 above will be replaced by the corresponding obligations in the Instalment Agreement. If, at the date you become a party to the Instalment Agreement, the second or final instalment (or both) has already fallen due and has not been paid, you will be obliged to pay that instalment or those instalments in accordance with the terms of the Instalment Agreement as if you were a Purchaser (as defined in the Instalment Agreement) on the due date for that instalment.

#### Incentives

- If you are eligible and your offer to purchase shares in the Company is accepted, you will be entitled to receive any incentive in relation to the Company you may have elected to receive in your application. This entitlement is governed by and you must comply with, the requirements set out, or referred to, in Part 5 of the Prospectus.

#### Warranties

- You warrant that:  
(i) You are not under the age of majority (18 years of age in the UK) on the date of your application.  
(ii) You are not, and you are not applying on behalf of, a US or Canadian person (as defined in Part 5, paragraph B.11 of the Prospectus) or an individual, corporation or entity resident in Japan.  
(iii) If your application, together with all other applications in which you have an interest or in which any person on whose behalf you are applying has an interest, were accepted in full, neither you nor any such person would have an interest (as defined in Article 51 of the Articles of Association of the Company) in shares representing 15 per cent. or more of the share capital of the Company in issue upon flotation.  
(iv) In making your application you are relying only on the Prospectus, or the Mini Prospectus taken together with the Prospectus, and not on any other information or representation concerning the Company or the Combined Offers. You agree that no person responsible for the Prospectus or any part of it will have any liability for any such other information or representation.  
(v) If the laws of any place outside the UK are applicable to your application, you have complied with all such laws and none of the parties mentioned in the Introduction to these terms and conditions will infringe any laws outside the UK as a result of the acceptance of your offer to purchase or any actions arising from your rights and obligations under these terms and conditions, the Instalment Agreement and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.
- If the person signing the application is not the applicant, that person warrants that he has authority to do so on behalf of the applicant and that, if that person is not an authorised

official of a branch of a UK Clearing Bank or a selling agent or financial intermediary, this authority is vested in him by virtue of any power of attorney which (or a copy of which, certified by a solicitor) accompanies the application.

- If the applicant is a corporation, the person signing the application form warrants that he has authority to do so on behalf of the applicant.

#### Supply and disclosure of information

- The Secretary of State and his agents shall have full access to all information relating to, or deriving from, the cheque or draft accompanying your application, and its processing. If the Secretary of State or his agents request any further information about your application you must promptly disclose it to them. Upon your becoming a party to the Instalment Agreement your name(s) will be placed on the Register of Interim Rights for the Company and, if you pay the instalments and do not transfer those rights, subsequently on its register of members. These registers are open to inspection by the public, who may take copies in return for a prescribed fee. The information supplied in, or in connection with, your application may also be disclosed to HM Government departments (and their agents) concerned with other privatisations and to the Secretary of State and his agents and members of the police forces for compiling lists of suspected multiple applicants.

#### No multiple applications

- You warrant that the declarations on your application form are true and correct. If they are not, you may be making a multiple application. Any interim certificate or returned application moneys relating to a person suspected of making a multiple application may be held (without interest) pending investigation.

#### Miscellaneous

- The rights and remedies of the Secretary of State, Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited, The British Linen Bank Limited, The Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland, The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, The Royal Trust Company and each Company under the terms and conditions of application are in addition to any rights and remedies which would otherwise be available to each of them, and the exercise or partial exercise of one will not prevent the exercise of others.
- All documents and any returned moneys will be sent at your risk. They may be sent by post to you at the address shown on the application form. Any cheque will be made payable to you (or the first person named in any joint application).
- You agree to be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company once the shares you have agreed to purchase have been transferred to you.
- Your application, any acceptance of that application and the contract resulting therefrom will be governed by and construed in accordance with, the law of Scotland. For the exclusive benefit of the parties mentioned in the Introduction to these terms and conditions you irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish courts in respect of these matters. This does not prevent an action being taken against you in any other jurisdiction.
- Reference in these terms and conditions to the Prospectus is to the full Prospectus dated 30 May 1991 containing listing particulars relating to each of Hydro-Electric and ScottishPower. Words defined in the Prospectus and not defined in these terms and conditions have the same meanings in these terms and conditions and in your application and in the guide to the application form used by you as in the Prospectus. In the case of a joint application, references to you in these terms and conditions are to each of you and your liability is joint and several.
- None of Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited, The British Linen Bank Limited or any of the banks mentioned in the Introduction to these terms and conditions will treat you as its customer by virtue of your making an application for shares or by virtue of your offer to purchase being accepted. In particular, they will not owe you any duties or responsibilities concerning the price of the shares or concerning the suitability of the shares for you.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR RETURN OF THE PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

BY POST  
SEND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM  
TO ARRIVE NOT LATER THAN 10.00 AM ON  
WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE, 1991 AT

the appropriate address immediately below according to  
the first letter of your surname (or corporate name) inserted in Box 1.

#### A to K

Bank of Scotland  
New Issues  
Apex House  
9 Haddington Place  
Edinburgh EH7 4AL

#### L to Z

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc  
Registrar's Department  
PO Box No. 7, Canning House  
19 Canning Street  
Edinburgh EH3 8TE

ALLOW AT LEAST TWO DAYS FOR DELIVERY

#### BY HAND

TAKE THE FORM BEFORE 3.30 PM ON TUESDAY 11 JUNE, 1991  
to any UK branch of NatWest, Bank of Scotland,  
The Royal Bank of Scotland or Ulster Bank.

OR TAKE THE FORM BY HAND BEFORE 10.00 AM  
ON WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE, 1991  
TO ANY OF THE RECEIVING CENTRES LISTED OPPOSITE

<b>Aberdeen</b> The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 12 Golden Square Aberdeen	<b>Edinburgh</b> National Westminster Bank PLC 90 George Street Edinburgh	<b>London</b> National Westminster Bank PLC New London Department 21 Finsbury Street London EC2
<b>Belfast</b> Ulster Bank Limited Personal Investment Unit 85/90 High Street Belfast	<b>Glasgow</b> Bank of Scotland 64 George Street Edinburgh	<b>Manchester</b> National Westminster Bank PLC 211 Market Street Manchester
<b>Birmingham</b> National Westminster Bank PLC Colmore Centre 103 Colmore Row Birmingham	<b>Glasgow</b> Bank of Scotland 110 St Vincent Street Glasgow	<b>Newcastle</b> Bank of Scotland 82-84 New Street Newcastle upon Tyne
<b>Bristol</b> National Westminster Bank PLC 32 Corn Street Bristol	<b>Inverness</b> The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 51 Harbour Road Inverness	<b>Perth</b> The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 211 South Street Perth
<b>Cardiff</b> National Westminster Bank PLC 117 St. Mary Street Cardiff	<b>Leeds</b> National Westminster Bank PLC 6 Park Row Leeds	<b>Southampton</b> National Westminster Bank PLC 129 High Street Southampton
<b>Dundee</b> Bank of Scotland 117 Reform Street Dundee	<b>Liverpool</b> National Westminster Bank PLC 22 Castle Street Liverpool	







[illegible]

**The prices in this section refer to Tuesday's trading**

## MONEY MARKETS

[illegible][illegible]



## Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page daily. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it makes you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money, send in your claim card, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code at end
1	Honda Motor	Motor, Aircraft	
2	BOC	Industrial A-D	
3	Provident	Bank, Discount	
4	Kwik-Fit	Motor, Aircraft	
5	Scott & New	Insurance	
6	Coca-Cola	Food, Drink	
7	Traveller	Hotel, Catering	
8	MEPC	Property	
9	Dalrymple	Food	
10	Land Sea	Property	
11	Laporte	Chemical, Plastics	
12	Collyer	Motor, Aircraft	
13	Starhouse	Drugs, Stores	
14	Graham	Food, Drink	
15	Harwood Foods	Food	
16	LASMO	Oil, Gas	
17	TIP Europe	Transport	
18	Robinson	Tobacco	
19	Grovesend	Industrial A-D	
20	NFC	Transport	
21	Under Walker	Paper, Print, Adv	
22	Wool	Textile	
23	Royal Bank	Bank, Discount	
24	Harbour City	Industrial A-D	
25	By Land	Property	
26	EMAP	Newspaper, Pub	
27	Freemantle	Hotel, Catering	
28	Smith & Neph	Industrial A-D	
29	Pennington	Motor, Aircraft	
30	Canon	Industrial A-D	
31	Leard	Industrial A-D	
32	TVS	Leisure	
33	Maro 4	Electricity	
34	Coast Group	Transport	
35	Marshall	Drugs, Stores	
36	APV	Industrial A-D	
37	Low & Bonar	Industrial A-D	
38	Woolley	Industrial A-D	
39	HSBC	Bank, Discount	
40	Sheep Circle	Building, Roads	
41	Rolls-Royce	Motor, Aircraft	
42	NCC	Electricity	
43	Rank Org	Industrial A-D	
44	Simon Day	Industrial A-D	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £12,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

Two readers shared yesterday's Portfolio Platinum prize. Mrs F N H Duke, of Helsby, Cheshire, and Mr David Floyd, of Ealing, London, each receive £1,000.

### BRITISH FUNDS

1989	High	Low	Back	Price	Div	Yield
<b>SHORTS (Under Five Years)</b>						
1	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
2	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
3	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
4	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
5	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
6	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
7	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
8	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
9	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
10	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
11	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
12	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
13	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
14	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
15	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
16	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
17	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
18	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
19	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
20	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
21	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
22	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
23	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
24	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
25	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
26	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
27	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
28	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
29	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
30	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
31	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
32	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
33	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
34	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
35	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
36	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
37	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
38	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
39	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
40	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
41	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
42	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
43	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
44	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
45	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
46	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
47	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
48	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
49	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
50	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
51	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
52	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
53	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
54	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
55	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
56	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
57	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
58	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
59	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
60	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
61	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
62	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
63	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
64	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
65	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
66	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
67	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
68	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
69	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
70	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
71	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
72	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
73	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
74	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
75	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
76	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
77	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
78	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
79	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
80	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
81	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
82	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
83	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
84	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
85	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
86	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
87	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
88	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
89	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
90	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
91	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
92	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
93	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
94	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
95	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
96	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
97	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
98	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
99	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%
100	100.00	99.50	99.00	100.00	0.50	0.50%

1989	High	Low	Back	Price	Div	Yield
<b>FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS</b>						
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	0.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	0.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	0.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	0.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	0.4	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	0.5	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	0.6	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	0.7	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	0.8	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	0.9	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	1.0	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	1.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	1.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	1.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	1.4	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	1.5	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	1.6	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	1.7	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	1.8	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	1.9	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	2.0	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	2.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	2.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	2.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	2.4	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	2.5	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	2.6	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	2.7	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	2.8	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	2.9	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	3.0	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	3.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	3.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	3.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	3.4	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	3.5	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	3.6	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	3.7	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	3.8	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	3.9	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	4.0	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	4.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	4.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	4.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	4.4	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	4.5	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	4.6	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	4.7	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	4.8	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	4.9	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	5.0	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	5.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	5.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	5.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	5.4	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	5.5	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	5.6	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	5.7	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	5.8	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	5.9	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	6.0	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	6.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	6.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	6.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	6.4	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	6.5	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	6.6	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	6.7	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	6.8	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	6.9	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	7.0	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	7.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	7.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	7.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	7.4	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	7.5	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	7.6	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	7.7	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	7.8	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	7.9	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	8.0	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	8.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	8.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	8.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	8.4	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	8.5	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	8.6	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	8.7	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	8.8	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	8.9	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	9.0	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	9.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	9.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	9.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	9.4	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	9.5	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	9.6	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	9.7	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	9.8	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	9.9	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	10.0	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	10.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	10.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	10.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	10.4	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	10.5	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	10.6	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	10.7	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	10.8	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	10.9	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	11.0	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	11.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	11.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	11.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	11.4	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	11.5	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	11.6	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	11.7	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	11.8	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	11.9	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	12.0	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	12.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	12.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	12.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	12.4	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	12.5	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	12.6	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	12.7	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	12.8	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	12.9	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	13.0	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	13.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	13.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	13.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	13.4	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	13.5	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	13.6	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	13.7	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	13.8	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	13.9	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	14.0	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	14.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	14.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	14.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	14.4	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	14.5	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	14.6	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	14.7	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	14.8	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	14.9	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	15.0	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	15.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	15.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	15.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	15.4	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	15.5	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	15.6	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	15.7	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	15.8	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	15.9	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	16.0	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	16.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	16.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	16.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	16.4	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	16.5	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	16.6	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	16.7	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	16.8	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	16.9	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	17.0	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	17.1	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	17.2	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	17.3	10.186
100.00	Trans	9/1	100.00-06	100%	17.4	



# Brokers downgrade profit forecasts for housebuilders

Warburg Securities is also believed to have downgraded Wimpey and Tarmac as well as Blue Circle, Britain's biggest producer of cement. Blue Circle finished 5p better at 241p.

James Capel is also gloomy about the housebuilders. The

Dealers said that investors remain cautious about the political and economic outlook despite the reassuring words from the chancellor. Once again, there was a lot of arbitraging reported between the futures market and the cash market as market-makers covered short positions. The exodus of some brokers and fund managers to the Epsom

high that this could also be a big earner for Glaxo.

The support for Glaxo benefited some of the other drug companies with Reckitt & Coleman adding 32p to £13.81 on hopes of a share split, while SmithKline Beecham rose 7p to 780p and Wellcome rose 11p to 611p.

Takara, which specialises in the long-term care of the

Deighton is confident that "the level of profits coming from defence is sustainable", although the profits mix may be different.

County says that BAE is well placed to take advantage of an economic upturn and forecasts a 6% per cent compound pre-tax profit growth annually in the years to 1995.

**MICHAEL CLARK**

Sydney: AO	1502/- (+6.5)
Frankfurt: DAX	7172.76 (+27.38)
Bussels:	
Genève	5817.81 (+9.51)
Paris: CAC	491.61 (-0.62)
Zürich: SMI Gan	549.9 (+2.4)
London:	
FT - A1-Share	1210.88 (+6.23)
FT - "500"	1344.47 (+8.63)
FT. Gold Mines	181.2 (-0.8)
FT. Fixed Interest	93.39 (-0.04)
FT. Govt Secs	83.71 (-0.06)
Bargains	24842
USAD Volume	405.3M
SEAD (Datastream)	135.77 (-0.46)

\*Denotes latest trading price

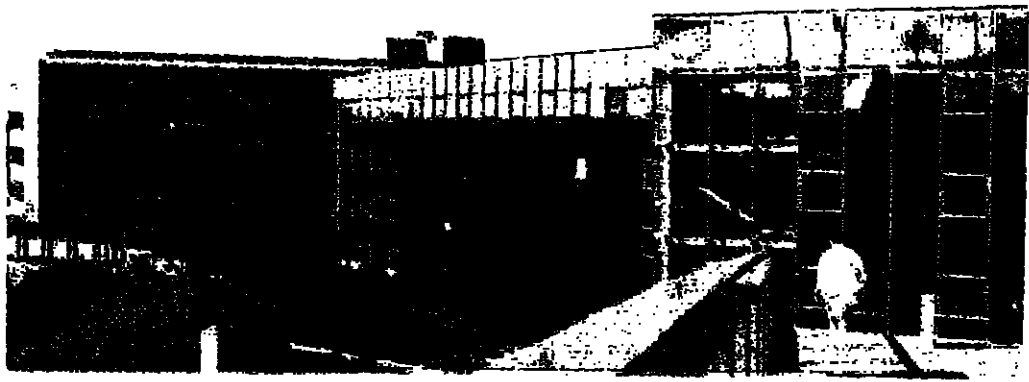
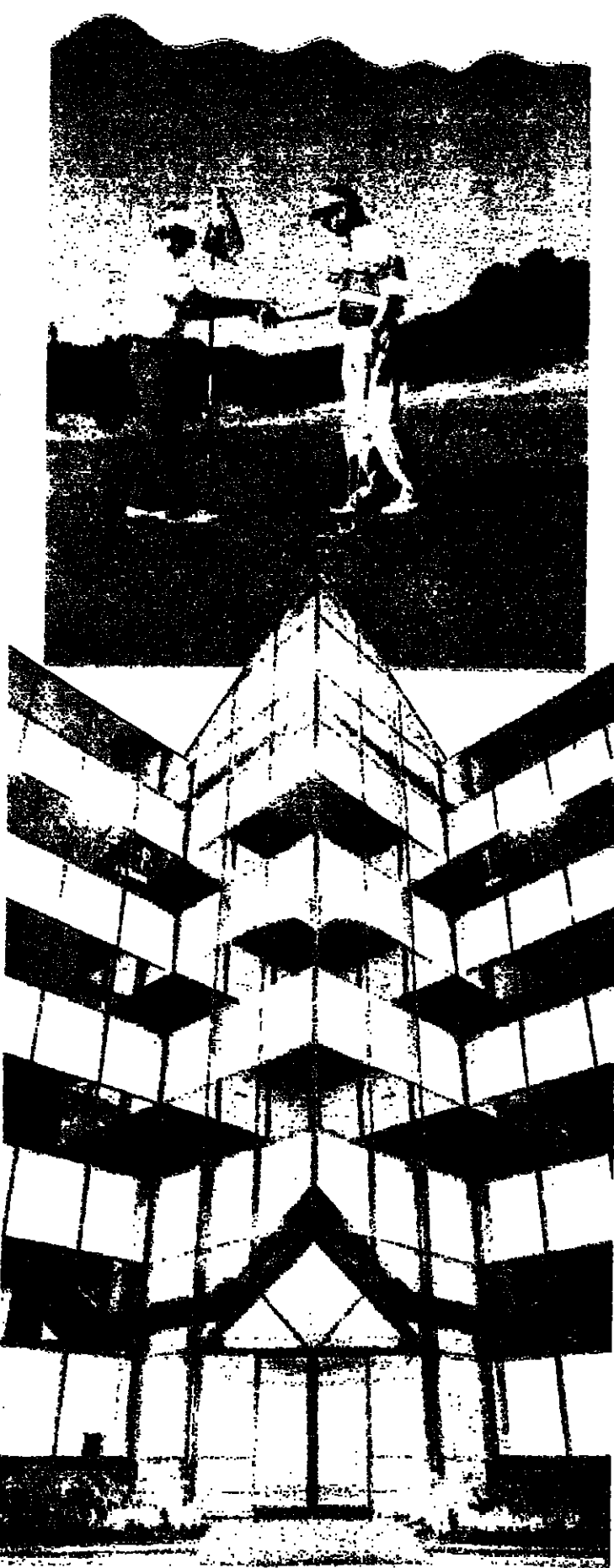
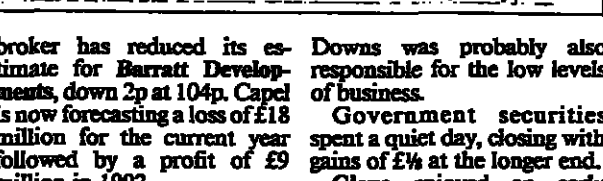
## Dow falls in early dealings

[illegible]

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
May 28	Jun 7	Aug 29	Sep 5
Call options were taken out on: 5/6/91 Atlantic Resources, Barrat Day, Brent Walker, Bryant Group, Cookcooks, Eurotunnel Units, MTV, Marcori, Monument Oil & Gas, Norcross, Cyber Resources, Tuskar.			
Putte Staldis, TLS Range.			
Put & Call: Brent Walker.			

[illegible]

EQUITIES			
Aberlorth Smir (100p)		Oryx Gold	194
Aberlorth Spill (100p)	123	RiverMead Smir (100p)	102
Alliance Res	108	St James Place	78
Alpine Res	118	Smaller Inv Tst (500p)	76
Brazzard Res (165p)	107	Tl Euro Growth	70
CAW Group	127	Tolgate	70-2
Contra-Cyclical (100p)	107	Trio Inv Tst (50p)	40
Drayton Blue Chip (100p)	107	Unichem	189
ESR Inc Tst (85p)	67		
Edgdes	46	<i>See main prices page for</i>	
East Germany Inv (100p)	111	<i>Electricity shares</i>	
Eurobond	64	<b>ELECTRICS ISSUES</b>	
Faber Frost	179	Benchmark N/P	5
Sealed Inc (100p)	105	Galvada N/P	10-1
Steel Pet	105	Holmes-Milner N/P	3 1/2-1
Treacore	22	Owens-Richmond N/P	3
Greenwich Res	225		
Headline Book (100p)	21	Schoff N/P	21+1
HMEC	23	Scapa N/P	9+2
Malvern UK	103	Scholl N/P	20+1
Milvernor	103	Ti High Inc N/P	20
Minor Book (125p)	512 1/2	Westminster N/P	3 1/2
	58		
		<i>(Issue price in brackets).</i>	



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In the wake of the latest volcanic eruption, Nigel Hawkes reports on the British researchers perfecting a reliable early warning system

# Surviving in the shadow of death

Japan's worst volcanic eruption for almost 200 years, which this week cost at least 38 lives, three of them volcanologists, brings home the fragility of the Earth's crust and its dangerous unpredictability.

Mount Unzen, near Nagasaki, southern Japan, has erupted at least five times before. The worst was in 1792, when 15,000 people died. In future, it is certain to erupt again, as will Vesuvius and Etna, in Italy, and most of the other 600 volcanoes classified as active around the world. Some 360 million people live on or near potentially dangerous volcanoes, so predictions could save lives.

The science of forecasting volcanic eruptions has been improving rapidly in the past 11 years, since the eruption of Mount St Helens in the United States. A range of techniques has been developed to give advance warnings of eruptions, but as the latest death toll shows, it is still impossible to pinpoint the precise moment.

In the next few weeks, scientists will be looking closely at the seismic data for the period immediately before the eruption at Mount Unzen. "It's possible we shall find a series of quick seismic events that might have warned an eruption was imminent," says Dr David Rothery, of the Open University earth sciences department. "But everyone who was on

the mountain knew that an eruption was coming, and the Japanese authorities had done everything they could to evacuate people."

The death toll would have been very much higher if hundreds of farmers and their families living in the area had not been moved when the volcano began to show danger signs in May. Most of those who died were firefighters, reporters and researchers who had gone deliberately into the danger area. These included 14 Japanese photographers and a television film crew.

The volcanologists killed were Maurice and Katia Krafft, from France, and an American, Harry Glicken, who had been doing research at the Tokyo metropolitan university. Dr Glicken had come close to death on a volcano before; in 1980 he was working as a field assistant for a geologist killed at Mount St Helens.

No single technique can be used for predicting eruptions, but the commonest method is to monitor shock waves transmitted through the ground. A second method is to measure how the surface of the volcano tilts, as the ground is stretched by pressure from below.

Just before the eruption of Mount St Helens, the side of the mountain bulged.

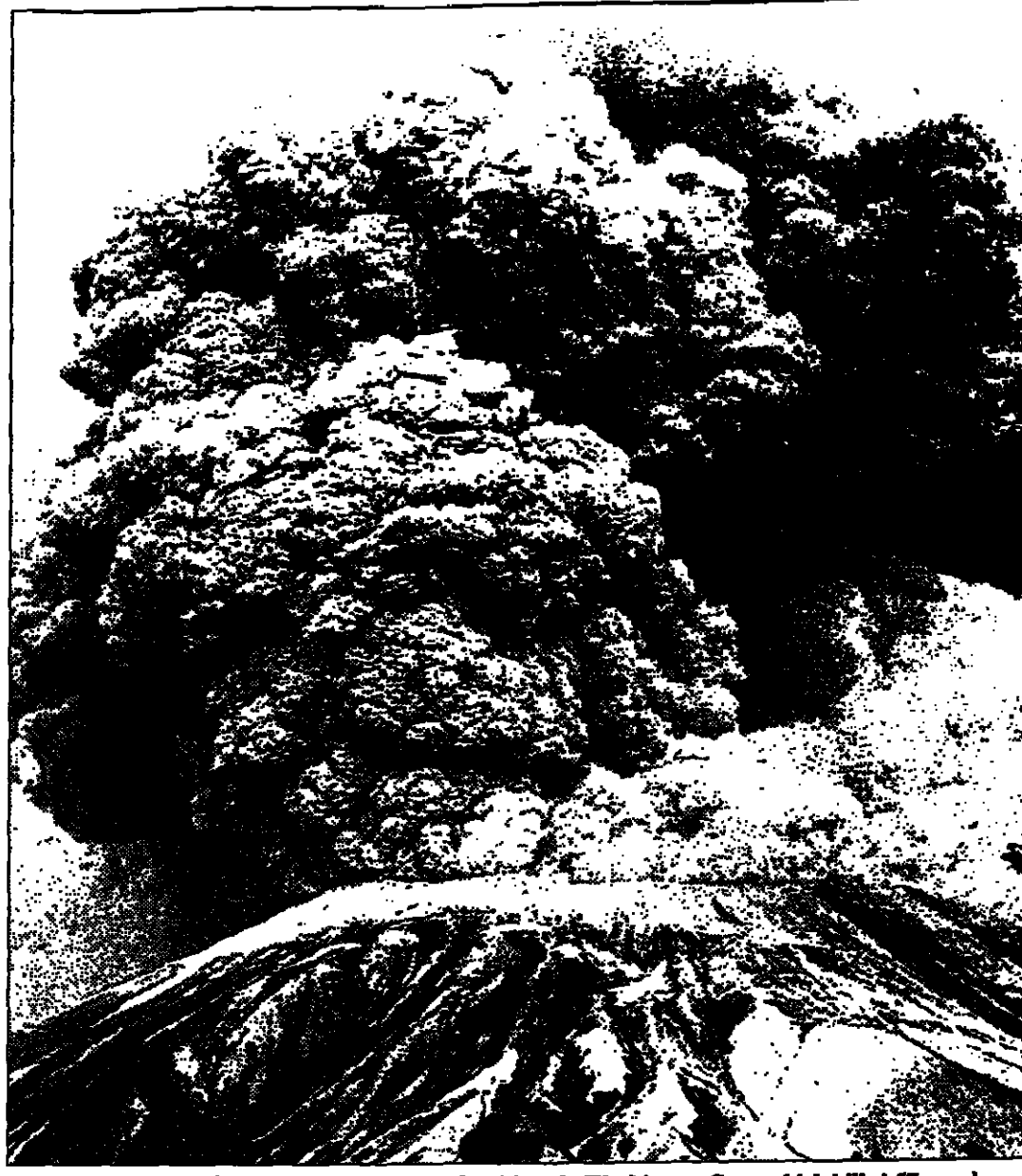
At the Open University, Geoff Brown and Hazel Rymer have been developing predictive methods which detect the movement of

the magma, or molten rock, underground. This movement changes the local gravitational field because the magma rising to the surface has a greater density than the ash and broken rocks closer to the surface.

The method was used successfully to monitor Fuego volcano in Costa Rica. Between March 1987 and the same month in 1989, the Open University team found changes in the gravitational field which suggested that the mass beneath the summit crater had increased by 100,000 tons. In April 1989, the volcano erupted for the first time in 36 years.

Monitoring a volcano does not help much, however, if the warnings are ignored. When the Nevado del Ruiz volcano in Colombia erupted in 1985, it had given ample warning. Little action was taken, however, and when the volcano erupted in December, sending a huge volume of mud flowing down the mountain to envelop the town of Armero, the people were still there; 25,000 died.

Millions live in the shadow of Etna, and have developed a fatalistic attitude towards the danger that it may erupt again. "People don't like to think about these things," Dr Rothery says. "After all, we're never going to move the city of Naples, are we?"



Flashback to 1980: the eruption of Mount St Helens in Washington State which killed 57 people

## Set for blast-off or a dummy with no future?



Waiting: Buran on its booster

THE American space shuttle Columbia was launched on a biomedical mission yesterday after a succession of technical hitches. Meanwhile, in Soviet Central Asia another shuttle waited.

The delay in the launch of the Soviet Union's 70-ton shuttle Buran, strapped to a booster that, it is claimed, can lift more than 100 tons, is likely to be financial, not technological.

But the Soviets say that when Buran gets off the ground the mission will be the most complex ever by an unmanned craft.

Colonel Valeri Solov'yev, the programme's deputy test director, confidently describes its launch as

imminent after pre-flight checks. However, a spokesman at the nearby factory that assembles the Energia boosters says Buran might fly in 1992, 1993 or even later, and the booster to which it is strapped is a dummy.

At the huge hangar where the Burans are assembled, the paint was peeling, desert dust was blowing up to the door and there were few signs of life. An angry official explained that visitors had not been expected until the next day, which, one expert quipped, would have "given them time to bring in a few technicians and look busy".

Buran is due to rendezvous with the Mir space station for a mock rescue of men in a Soyuz capsule.

Engineers have developed the Krystall docking system, incorporated in a module attached to Mir. Cosmonauts on the space station will ease Krystall to one end of the station to allow docking and will board the craft for checks.

Buran will dock with the "distressed" capsule, and two shuttle cosmonauts will board and pilot the craft around Earth before returning to the capsule and sending the shuttle home.

Soviet officials say the scheme will prove that Buran works and is better than the American shuttle. The claims are based on Buran's reliability and cost-effectiveness, claims Colonel Solov'yev. He says that Buran, unlike its rivals, can

be launched in freezing weather, rain and high winds, and could put 60-ton satellites or other payloads into orbit — twice the capability of the American shuttle, although the Americans are working on a bigger launcher.

Technically, the Buran, which, the Soviets claim, has spawned many inventions, is also very different. In keeping with the Soviet philosophy of maximising technological developments, Energia, Buran's booster, can launch any large payload. The American launcher is designed only for shuttles.

The Buran programme has been slowed by the space programme's funding difficulties as debates

continue about whether space adventurism is affordable. Some commercially attractive substances can be made in the weightlessness of space, but the costs are high.

The main problem, however, is that the Soviet Union has abandoned its strategic defence initiative project, the equivalent of the American star wars strategy. Difficulties have been aggravated by the shelving of the Mir 2 space station, which, says Phil Clark, of Molniya consultants, at Heston, west London, an authority on Soviet space activities, was originally planned for launch in 1992.

NICK NUTTALL

## Fish saves its chips

THE cod seems to have adjusted to increased fishing pressure by maturing earlier and reproducing before being caught in the North Sea. Cathy Rowell, a PhD biology student at York university, discovered that last year 10 per cent of two-year-old cod were breeding, whereas none bred at that age in 1974. She maintains the evidence is that the change is in response to human activity.

## Flying tests

BRITISH scientists have put human genes into the fruit fly to create a model for testing drugs and chemicals. Trevor Jowett, of Newcastle university, and Roland Wolf, of Edinburgh university, inserted the P450 gene, the first line of defence against chemicals, into fruit fly eggs. The transgenic flies will be used for screening materials for carcinogenic properties.

## Flexible trends

RESEARCHERS at the university of New South Wales in Sydney have produced high-temperature superconductors that twist into coils. The strips of superconducting ceramics can be bent without breaking or losing their superconducting power. Making such coils will be essential if high-temperature superconductors are used in electrical machines.

## Doubled power

IBM scientists have devised a way of doubling the performance of a type of semiconductor chip widely used in personal computers and workstations. The improved metal oxide field effect transistors have a thin channel of silicon-germanium alloy under the silicon surface, to confine the positively charged particles carrying the current. The result should be faster circuits, and greater computer power.

## Hi-tech lights

THE Royal Signals and Radar Establishment has created silicon chips that emit a range of coloured light at room temperature. The chips, which could form the basis of optical computers and display systems, produce light bright enough to be seen with the naked eye in a dimly lit room.

## Queen's Bench Divisional Court

## Law Report June 6 1991

## Queen's Bench Divisional Court

### Court split on risk of contempt before arrest

Attorney-general v Sport Newspapers Ltd and Others  
Before Lord Justice Bingham and Mr Justice Hodgson  
[Judgment May 24]

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court agreed that on the facts the publisher and editor of *The Sport* newspaper were not in contempt of court by having published details of a suspected murderer's previous convictions prior to the initiation of criminal proceedings against him. But their Lordships disagreed on whether contempt could be committed at common law by intentional publication of material creating a real risk of prejudice to the administration of justice before the criminal defendant had been arrested or a warrant for his arrest issued.

Mr Philip Havers for the Attorney-general, Mr Andrew Collins, QC and Mr Nigel Peters for the respondents.

LORD JUSTICE BINGHAM said the first respondent was the publisher of *The Sport*. The second was its editor. Following the disappearance on November 3, 1988 of Anna Louise Humphries, aged 15, from Peasey, Clevedon, suspicion had fallen on David Evans who disappeared from the area about the same time.

Evans had previous convictions for sexual offences involving rape. Police had warned at a press conference and by letters to the Press Association that nothing should be published about his convictions for fear of jeopardising possible legal proceedings.

It was certain that the second respondent knew on November 14 that the police did not want these details published. However, on November 16, *The Sport* had carried a front page notice under the heading "Exclusive" saying "Anna: man on run is vicious rapist. Full story page two". The story on page two gave details of Evans' previous convictions.

A warrant was issued on November 18, Anna's body was recovered on November 27 and on January 9, 1989 Evans was extradited from France. He was convicted in July of Anna's murder.

It was plain that when the respondent's article was published the criminal proceedings against Evans were not active within the meaning of section 2(3) of and Schedule 1 to the Contempt of Court Act 1981.

The respondents could not therefore be liable for contempt regardless of intent. The applicant's case was that they were liable at common law, such liability being preserved by section 6(c) of the 1981 Act.

Mr Havers had submitted that a contempt at common law was established if it was shown beyond reasonable doubt, and with reference to the date of publication that (1) publication created a real risk of prejudice to the due administration of justice

and (2) that the alleged contempt published the material with the specific intent of causing such risk.

He contended that that offence could be committed even if proceedings were not imminent.

Mr Collins maintained that there could be no contempt even at common law until proceedings had begun, that is when a defendant was arrested or charged or came within the custody of the court.

Where (1) and (2) were established with reference to a time before proceedings had begun a publisher might be liable for perverting the course of justice but not for contempt of court.

Mr Havers maintained that the courts' power to punish for contempt existed not to vindicate the dignity of the court or the authority of judges but to ensure the integrity of legal proceedings for the benefit of those using the courts.

At the forefront of the authorities cited by Mr Havers was *Attorney-general v News Group Newspapers plc* [(1989) QB 110].

In that case the prosecuting authorities had decided, for lack of evidence, not to prosecute a doctor for allegedly raping a child. The defendant newspaper gave prominent and specific publicity to the child's allegations, identifying the doctor as the rapist, and at the same time offered to help fund a private prosecution.

In contempt proceedings, the Queen's Bench Divisional Court had found against the newspaper, holding that a contempt could be committed even though proceedings were not pending or imminent at the date of publication.

Mr Collins had relied particularly on the Australian case of *James v Robinson* [(1963) 109 CLR 593], in which the High Court had concluded that publication before the commencement of proceedings could not amount to contempt of court, and on *Stirling v Associated Newspapers Ltd* [(1960) SLT 5] in which the High Court of Justiciary in Scotland had reached a similar conclusion.

He had maintained that the purpose of section 6(c) was not to create a liability at common law which never existed, but to preserve the right to proceed for deliberate contempt after proceedings were in existence.

Mr Havers had correctly identified the rationale of that part of the law of contempt. In his Lordship's view section 6(c) was intended to preserve what was understood to be the existing law, that a publisher was liable in contempt for an intentionally prejudicial publication made at a time when proceedings were in existence. A publication made with the intention of prejudicing proceedings which, although not in existence, were imminent

might be contemptuous and punishable as such if it gave rise to the required risk.

*Attorney-general v News Group Newspapers plc* was a clear decision that contempt could be committed if proceedings were not imminent, and the court in making it had expressly recognised it was extending the boundaries of contempt.

It was a decision with serious implications in those cases, perhaps increasingly common, where reporters were concerned to highlight an alleged crime, to point an accusing finger at an identified culprit and to stimulate a demand for prosecution.

It also had the effect of enlarging a quasi-criminal liability in a field recently considered by the House of Lords in *Attorney-general v Guardian Newspapers Ltd* [(1989) AC 1102].

To depart from a rule so recently and unanimously laid down by the court would be wrong. His Lordship accordingly held that if the risk and (2) were established, contempt might be committed even though proceedings were neither in existence nor imminent.

However, the applicant had not shown beyond reasonable doubt that the publication of the material created a real risk of prejudice to the due administration of justice which had to be proved.

The answer might have been different if proof of recklessness were sufficient, but it was not. Mr Justice Hodgson said having heard the second respondent give evidence he was not satisfied either as to the length of time it took nowadays for a serious case to reach a jury, or that a real risk was created by the publication of the article.

But he had reached a different conclusion on the law from Lord Justice Bingham.

Mr Collins had argued that contempt by publication of material creating a real risk of prejudice to the due administration of justice could not be committed before those proceedings were pending.

He had contended that for the court to find in favour of that proposition would involve either refusing to follow or distinguishing *Attorney-general v News Group Newspapers plc*.

*James v Robinson* had drawn a clear distinction between publication of material which interfered with the trial of a particular case, and interference with the administration of justice generally.

Prior to the 1981 Act, the courts had not distinguished between criminal and civil proceedings when considering the time at which they became under risk from the publication of prejudicial matter.

There was no dispute about the mental element of publication contempt, namely that the publisher must be proved to have intended to prejudice the fair trial of legal proceedings.

Mr Collins and Mr Havers differed sharply over the extent of the risk of prejudice to the fair trial of legal proceedings. In his Lordship's judgment, Mr Havers had restricted himself to criminal proceedings, but in his Lordship's judgment, when the position at common law was considered without reference to the 1981 Act, civil proceedings had to be considered and be subject to the same time limit as criminal proceedings.

His Lordship reviewed English, Australian, Scottish and Northern Ireland authorities, considered the proposals for reform and reviewed the provisions of the 1981 Act.

He concluded that, in the absence of the decision in *Attorney-general v News Group Newspapers plc* he would hesitatingly have held that the time when the summary jurisdiction of judges over intention to publish contemptuous material should be when the relevant proceedings were pending.

The principle underlying the arrogation to themselves by judges of right to deprive a publisher of the right to publish otherwise lawful material by summary procedure, was the need for speedy and effective protection of the right to a fair trial.

On the two occasions where a case had actually raised a question whether publication contempt could be committed in proceedings which were not pending, the answer had been an emphatic "No" (*In re Crown Bank Ltd* [(1890) 44 ChD 649] and *James v Robinson*).

The dicta, although from

eminent sources, were all in cases where the issue had been a question of whether there was no English judge had considered the problems and difficulties of an imminent starting point.

In his Lordship's judgment, *Attorney-general v News Group Newspapers plc* was a wrong decision.

Its implications for the media had not yet been appreciated. It was an almost daily occurrence that investigative journalism would target some wrongdoer, publish damning material about him and seek to have instigated criminal or civil proceedings against him.

The *actus reus* of the kind of contempt punished in *Attorney-general v News Group Newspapers plc* was committed time and time again.

Mr Havers had met that point by saying that it was the Attorney-general who usually brought publication contempt proceedings. But his consent was not required for common law contempt proceedings; section 7 of the 1981 Act only required his consent for proceedings under the strict liability rule.

Many of the targets of investigative journalism were rich and powerful and who was to say that when attacked they would not respond by seeking leave to move for contempt?

His Lordship did not think that the ambit of the summary procedure for contempt should be widened.

The criminal law should be left to deal with offences of perverting the course of justice. Judges should not find guilt and impose penalties unless it was necessary for the effective control of active proceedings.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Keyes Teaser & Co, South Tottenham.

### Boundary irrelevant for school admissions

Regina v Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Ex parte Kingwell

Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Owen

[Judgment May 24]

Section 6 of the Education Act 1980 imposed an equal duty on an education authority in respect of parents living within and without its boundary.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an application for judicial review brought by Bruce Joseph Kingwell of the decision of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames to admit children to its secondary schools for the academic year 1991/2 without reference as to whether they lived within the borough.

Mr Alan Wilkie for the applicant; Mr Richard McManus for the local authority.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that following the decision

in *R v Greenwich London Borough Council, Ex parte Governors of the John Ball Primary School* [(The Times December 27, 1989; (1989) 58 LGR 589)] Kingston introduced a new policy which abolished any priority for Kingston residents when considering parental preference and provided that selection should be by written test only.

It was common ground that the consequence of that was that some parents living within the borough would not achieve for their children a single-sex education although they had expressed a preference for such education and that prior to the change of policy their children would have had such education.

The grounds upon which the applicant relied included the contention that the duty of a local education authority was to conform to the provisions of sections 7 and 8 of the Education Act 1944, the essential effects of which were not, it was

Regina v Bromley London Borough Council, Ex parte C and Others

Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Owen

[Judgment May 24]

The effect of section 6(5) of the Education Act 1980 was that a local education authority could not in any circumstances favour children living within its area as against children living outside its area when considering applications for places at its maintained schools.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in a reserved judgment in granting a declaration in judicial review proceedings by three children of school age, C, K and M, brought by their mothers and next friends.

Section 6 of the 1980 Act provided: "(5) The duty imposed ... in relation to a preference ... shall apply to — (a) any application for the admission to a school maintained by a local education authority of a child who is not in the area of the authority ..."

Mr John Howell for the children; Mr James Goudie, QC and Mr Charles Bear for the local authority.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that after the decision in *R v Greenwich London Borough Council, Ex parte Governors of the John Ball Primary School* [(The Times December 27, 1989; (1989) 58 LGR 589)] Bromley changed its policy from one giving outright preference to Bromley children to one giving preference to Bromley children only in certain circumstances. It was that latter policy in

respect of which the application was made with regard to the decision in *Greenwich and, inter alia*, section 6 of the Education Act 1980.

In July 1990, Bromley education committee resolved its new admissions policy to be that pupils would be admitted to all schools in accordance with parental preference wherever possible. When a school was oversubscribed the applications would be assessed in the following order of priorities: children with a brother or sister at the school; proximity of the school; and accessibility of any alternative school.

There then followed a provision which had become known as the proviso and which provided that the council would only depart from the results which would be produced applying the criteria if and to the extent that such departure was necessary in order to comply with the council's duty under sections 7 and 8 of the Education Act 1944.

Bromley maintained that as a result of the *Greenwich* case it changed its policy so as to comply with its duties under section 6(5) as interpreted in *Greenwich*. But, in doing so it had to have in mind its many other duties as an education authority which included those in sections 7 and 8 of the 1944 Act.

Bromley rightly anticipated that the number of applicants from both within and without the borough for its all-ability schools would exceed the number of places available. Therefore, it considered that without the proviso there would necessarily be a denial of places at

Bromley schools to the children of Bromley residents. That was considered to amount to a breach of section 6(5) of the Education Act 1980.

On March 27, 1991 Bromley notified the parents of the result of their applications. C and K were unsuccessful and M was offered a place in Bromley at his second choice.

Bromley accepted that it had not applied the proviso each of the applicants would have been admitted to the preferred school.

Mr Howell argued that the consequences of section 6(5) of the 1980 Act as explained in *Greenwich* was that a local education authority could not in any circumstances favour children living outside its area when considering applications for places at its maintained schools. Accordingly, he submitted that the proviso was ultra vires beyond the powers of the local education authority.

The crucial matter for decision was the effective relationship between the duties under sections 7 and 8 of the 1944 Act on the one hand and section 6(5) of the 1980 Act. That was considered in *Greenwich* but Mr Goudie contended that that decision was largely irrelevant and was not conclusive of the issues in the present case.

The decision in *Greenwich* was binding on the court and his Lordship felt constrained to hold that there was a clear duty under section 6(5) not in any way to differentiate between applicants within and without the area of a local education authority. That had to be regarded as a primary duty.

The duties under sections 7 and 8 of the 1944 Act still existed, of course. A local education authority would still have a duty to ensure that efficient education was available in its own area. For a local authority to do that in the light of the interaction between sections 7 and 8 of the 1944 Act and section 6(5) of the 1980 Act, especially when there was oversubscription, was painfully difficult.

Their Lordships saw much practical difficulty and it did not surprise them to learn that representations had been made to the secretary of state which sought to bring about a change in the law.

Mr Justice Owen agreed.

Solicitors: Richard White & Michael Sherwin, Croydon; Mr Walter Millon, Bromley.

## Correction

In *Punjab National Bank v De Boinville and Others* (The Times June 4) Outram Kilpatrick & Co. Slough were the solicitors for the second appellant.

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 6 1991

UPDATE

Fish saves its chips

Flying tests

Flexible trends

Doubled power

Hi-tech lights

Set for blast-off or a dummy with no future?

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Law Report June 6 1991

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Court split on risk of contempt before arrest

Council cannot favour local children

Boundary irrelevant for school admissions

Crème de la Crème

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## YACHTING

# Port Pendennis to augment strong Admiral's Cup trio

By BARRY PICKTHALL

LAWRIE Smith's one-tonner, Port Pendennis, has been selected by the Royal Ocean Racing Club to represent Britain in the Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup. The decision follows the yacht's promising second place last weekend at the Bit Cup, off Kiel, against some of the toughest competition expected to compete at the One Ton Cup next month, and the Admiral's Cup in August.

Ed Dubois, the designer of Port Pendennis, confirmed yesterday that further improvements would be made to the Turkish-owned yacht before the world championship in Belgium.

"We are happy with our all-round performance so we will not be changing much," he said. "We have already made small changes to the keel and rudder, adding two inches to the draft, and a recent remounting has shown that we can increase the area of our mainsail."

Smith, who is contracted to skipper the British maxi, Rothmans, in the Fastnet Classic, the concluding race in the Admiral's Cup series, is expected to hand over command of the one-tonner to his principal helmsman, Jo Richards, who won the 605-mile event in 1987. The remainder of the afterguard is made up of Vincent Geake, a *The Times*/James Capel crew search winner, and Mark Chiswell, who will sail as tactician.

Port Pendennis completes a strong line-up to defend the Admiral's Cup for Britain. It includes Mike Peacock's *Juno V*, which is lying second in the 50ft world championship series, and the RAF's *Wings of Oracle*, competing in the Two-Ton Cup world championship at Kiel this week.

The British trio faces stiff competition, however, from at least three of the seven national teams coming to Cowes for the Admiral's Cup. Among them, judging by their performance in Germany, are the Italians, whose Farr-designed one-tonner, *Brava*, won the Bit Cup, while Larouge was the early leader in Two-Ton Cup this week.

Britain can be thankful, perhaps, that Raul Gardini's

America's Cup aspirations rule out the participation of his top 50-footer, *Abra-cadabra*, from competing at Cowes. Instead, the Italians will rely on Giorgio Carriero's *Mandrake*, which has failed to shine in recent 50ft regattas.

Germany, which last won the Cup in 1985, also has a strong team in Hans Otto Schumann's two-tonner, *Rubin*, the one-tonner, *Adap-4*, owned by Hasso Plesner, and the latest 50ft Container just launched for Udo Schütz.

The Americans, who have not handled the Cup since 1969, also have a top line-up, but lack practice. Dave Clarke's latest Farr-designed one-tonner, *Vibes*, skippered by Jim Brady, the J24 world champion, finished eighth in the Bit Cup, and is matched with the untiered two-tonner, *Bravura*, skippered by Robbie Haines, and the Japanese-owned 50-footer, *Champosa V*. Other teams competing are Japan, France, Australia and Denmark.

Ian Murray's Spirit of Australia America's Cup challenge syndicate yesterday announced sponsorship which, Murray said, was worth more than A\$1 million from the Bundaberg Rum Company.

## POLO

## Pieres eases Ellerston home

By JOHN WATSON

ELLERSTON White earned their place in the final of the Queen's Cup yesterday at Smith's Lawn, where they defeated their semi-final rivals, Sladmore, by 11 goals to 10.

Sladmore, John Howells' all-English side, is arguably the best balanced high-goal squad this season. But Kerry Packer's Ellerston enjoy three prime advantages — the close interplay of their 10-goal Argentine Pieres brothers, a slight edge in pony power and the fact that Adam Smith Archibald, their No. 1

is distinctly under-handicapped. (They are more a 25-goal team than the 22 aggregate at which they are rated.) Despite the disparity in their players' handicaps, Ellerston have grown to greater wonder.

The first half of this thrilling duel went Ellerston's way. Gonzalo Pieres was more inclined to find the opposing flags with his penalty shots than

Howells, and by the close of the second half Ellerston were up 6-1. Sladmore's team-mate, during the second half deserves

the highest praise. In the sixth and last chukka William Lucas, the Sladmore No. 1, received a severe knock, but dismissed the services of an ambulance that had raced on, remounted and not only scored the goal that narrowed his side's deficit to 10-9, but the equaliser, too. In the last minute Gonzalo Pieres converted a penalty from 20 yards to give Ellerston victory.

ELLERSTON WHITE: 1. A Archibald (1); 2. A Pieres (10); 3. J Howells (10); 4. B. R. Packer (1); 5. J. Howells (1); 6. J. Howells (1); 7. J. Howells (1); 8. J. Howells (1); 9. J. Howells (1); 10. J. Howells (1).

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# Quest For Fame to return in style

FOLLOWING the victory of his stable companion Sangamoor in the Prix d'Islebaan at Chantilly on Sunday, Quest For Fame can also make a triumphant return at Epsom today by winning the Hanson Coronation Cup.

Twelve months ago, it was Sangamoor's victory in the Prix du Jockey Club that encouraged Roger Charlton and Pat Eddery to believe they stood a good chance of pulling off a famous classic double by also winning the Derby at Epsom three days later and, as events proved, that confidence was certainly not misplaced.

Now there is a good chance that the pattern will be repeated because Quest For Fame worked really well with Sangamoor in a gallop on Newbury racecourse after racing had finished there last month.

A top-class filly over a mile

Last year, Quest For Fame had the Derby won a long way from home. A subsequent disappointing run in the Irish Derby can be blamed on the leg injury that he sustained in the race, which was bad enough to keep him off the track until now.

Earlier in the season, Quest For Fame had finished a good second in the Chester Vase to Belmez, who upheld the form later by winning both the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot and Great Voltigeur Stakes at York where he gave weight and a beating to the subsequent St Leger winner, Sture.

In contrast to Quest For Fame, in The Groove's sole ended in disappointment as she finished only fourth in the Oaks.

Last year, Rock Hopper was the ante-post favourite for the Derby for a brief time after he had won the Lingfield Trial. Unfortunately, a hair-line fracture of a cannon bone forced him to miss the race. He, more than the 1989 Derby runner-up Terimon looks, the one that Quest For Fame has to beat here.

Eddery can go on to land a double by winning the last race on the programme, the Nightingall Maiden Stakes on Close Friend, who has been placed behind horses of the calibre of Lahib and Crucian ahead this season. He is just preferred to Elathir, who caught the eye at York with a promising first run behind Cardinal Spirit.

A horse with Racketeer's blistering speed should be ideally suited to the course and distance over which the Stanley Wootton Handicap will be run.

At Beverley, the Alex Scott-trained Storm Melody, who created such a favourable impression when making that victorious debut at Doncaster 10 days ago, is napped to retain his unbeaten record by winning the GRP Massey Two-Year-Old Trophy.

I also like the look of Great Heights' chance of winning the 106th running of the Watt Memorial Stakes following that good first run for his current trainer Julie Cecil at Newbury where he was a highly creditable fourth in the race won by Saunge.

Sense Of Priority, who proved too strong for the useful It's Only Money at Carlisle a week ago, is taken to follow up by landing the Eton Claiming Stakes, a race that his owner, trainer and jockey also netted 12 months ago with Panama Pete.



Quest For Fame, winner of the Derby at Epsom last year, returns after injury to the scene of his classic triumph for today's competitive Coronation Cup

## Sylva Honda prelude to Munro's finest hour

By GEORGE RAE

WHILE winning the Derby was still just a distant dream, Alan Munro collected the other year's race on the Epsom card yesterday, the Diamond Stakes, with Sylva Honda.

Munro and Sylva Honda held a clear advantage through the final furlong and came home two lengths clear of Fair Average.

Sylva Honda, trained by Clive Brittain, is making a habit of unexpected victories at Epsom. Last year he won the Woodcote Stakes as a 7-1 chance, and here was sent off at 20-1 for his first victory since then.

Despite his unpromising record, it was almost inevitable that the general Brittain could not bring himself to be surprised by the result.

"He was disappointing at York last time, but when he came back we found he had a rash between his legs," Brittain said. "He's not an ungainly horse, it was that problem which clearly prevented him going through with his effort."

Although Brittain has nothing specific in mind for Sylva Honda, the trainer is renowned for his astute handling of horses and will doubtless find suitable targets.

Shewbrook, beaten a short head by Fair Cop at Goodwood on his debut, made no mistake second time with a six-length win from Diamond Mine in the Silver Seal Woodcote Stakes. Diamond Mine, from Jack Berry's prolific winning stable, lost some ground at the start and failed to handle the descent into Tattenham Corner, but was never going to be anything other than second best.

Showbrook ridden by Bruce Raymond, drew well clear in the final furlong in a time fast enough to suggest an above-average performance.

"He'll go for the Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot next," said Richard Hanson, the winning trainer. Hanson will also be represented at the royal meeting by his smart filly Central City in the Queen Mary Stakes.

Mertola's Pet underlined the importance of a hind draw on the sprint course with a clear-cut win in the Night Rider Handicap.

Nick Carlisle had Mertola's Pet always prominent against the stands rail and the mare had her rivals in trouble at halfway as she scooted home clear of Victory.

"Five furlongs and no more is her trip," Peggy Cottrell, the wife of the winning trainer, Gerald, said. "Even something like the Stewards' Cup, although it's very easy six furlongs at Goodwood, would be out of the question. She has to be governed by the trip."

Cottrell does not have the same strength of numbers these days, but remains a force to be reckoned with in sprint handicaps. "People keep saying Gerald's semi-retired but that's not really true," she said. "It gives the impression that he just stays at home snoozing. All we've done is to cut down on some of our commitments."

Fire Top landed the Buttery Brick Handicap for the second successive season under a strong ride from Pat Eddery. Challenged throughout the final furlongs by Minimize, Eddery kept scoring more and more from Fire Top to prevail by two lengths.

"I've always had this race in mind for him," said Reg Akehurst, the winning trainer. "He loves the course and it seemed a natural target for him. I've also found that the horse is better with proper shoes rather than the stick-on ones I'd been using on him before. Jockeys must be told that he didn't feel quite right and I suppose with a horse it's exactly the same as a person wearing the wrong type of shoe."

## Gosden delays Majmu decision

From OUR FRENCH RACING CORRESPONDENT, PARIS

FRANCE'S top three-year-old fillies are in for a Chantilly on Sunday with a bit of a twist expected for the Prix de Diane. (French Oaks) for which 15 were left in yesterday.

The two possible British majours are John Gosden's Majmu and the Bill Watts-trained Kazz, though no firm decision on either's participation is expected to be made until today.

The Crique Head-trained pair of Brooklyne's Dance and Treble are likely to be competitors for favouritism with the Aga Khan's unbeaten filly Massilma.

The Charlie Brooks-trained Bokaro tackles France's top hurdler, Rose Or No, in the Prix La Barthe at Auteuil today as a prelude to running in the Grande Course de Haie d'Auteuil (French Champion Hurdle) at the end of the month.

The Lambourn trainer's taste for tackling top foreign hurdlers was whetted when Bokaro landed the Corsi Sipi di Milano (Italian Champion Hurdle) at San Siro in April, and he has since landed a valuable maiden hurdle with Castiglione at Enghien in Paris last month.

## Epsom

Going good to firm

2.15 (m) 1. SHOWERBROOK (B. Raymond, 2-12) 2. Diamond Mine (K. Darby, 13-8) 3. Silver Seal Woodcote (J. Cecil, 14-1) 4. Fair Average (B. Raymond, 14-1) 5. W. R. 14-1 6. W. R. 14-1 7. W. R. 14-1 8. W. R. 14-1 9. W. R. 14-1 10. W. R. 14-1 11. W. R. 14-1 12. W. R. 14-1 13. W. R. 14-1 14. W. R. 14-1 15. W. R. 14-1 16. W. R. 14-1 17. W. R. 14-1 18. W. R. 14-1 19. W. R. 14-1 20. W. R. 14-1 21. W. R. 14-1 22. W. R. 14-1 23. W. R. 14-1 24. W. R. 14-1 25. W. R. 14-1 26. W. R. 14-1 27. W. R. 14-1 28. W. R. 14-1 29. W. R. 14-1 30. W. R. 14-1 31. W. R. 14-1 32. W. R. 14-1 33. W. R. 14-1 34. W. R. 14-1 35. W. R. 14-1 36. W. R. 14-1 37. W. R. 14-1 38. W. R. 14-1 39. W. R. 14-1 40. W. R. 14-1 41. W. R. 14-1 42. W. R. 14-1 43. W. R. 14-1 44. W. R. 14-1 45. W. R. 14-1 46. W. R. 14-1 47. W. R. 14-1 48. W. R. 14-1 49. W. R. 14-1 50. W. R. 14-1 51. W. R. 14-1 52. W. R. 14-1 53. W. R. 14-1 54. W. R. 14-1 55. W. R. 14-1 56. W. R. 14-1 57. W. R. 14-1 58. W. R. 14-1 59. W. R. 14-1 60. W. R. 14-1 61. W. 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